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75¢

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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NMI govt to reopen in phases

The CNMI government will be reopened in phases starting Monday, May 18, 2020.

In a directive last night, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres said his administration believes it is now appropriate to initiate the reopening process for the government to enable it to once again provide services to the public. "By providing services the government will enable the rest of the community, especially the business community, to begin their reopening process," he said in his latest directive.

The new directive becomes effective on May 17, 2020.

The reopening process will be conducted in a phased manner.

Starting Monday, May 18, 2020, most government offices will be open for a half day to provide government offices an opportunity to get social distancing systems and handwashing, and wearing of

See NMI on Page 4

SUPPORT A GRADUATE!

With the Class of 2020 not able to have a graduation ceremony due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the rules for social distancing, a non-profit group called Project Familia wants to help celebrate a graduate with a roadside graduation photo banner that will be displayed at the graduate's school. The group is urging families to purchase banners. The last day to buy a banner is today, May 15. Get information on the Facebook page of Robert Linda Concepcion-Torres. To sign up for a graduation banner, complete and submit the online form at: https://tinyurl.com/project familia2020. To ask about the project, contact Linda Concepcion-Torres at 287-7861, Rita Chong-Dela Cruz at 789-1986, or Bertha Torres at 788-1100.

KRIZEL TUAZON

Mass testing to be widened

By JUSTINE NAUTA
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. will be taking their community-based testing initiative into the community to test residents for COVID-19.

Muña

According to Esther Muna, CHCC chief executive officer, there is no fixed date yet on when it's going to happen but CHCC will be going to specific areas to administer the test for the virus.

See MASS on Page 4

AT A GLANCE

As of 6pm, May 14, 2020

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	151	0	151
Recovered	124	0	124
Active	25	0	25
Deaths	6*	0	6*

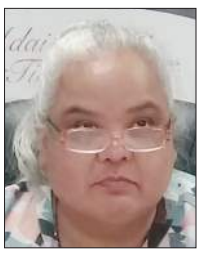
SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	19	0	19
Recovered	12	0	12
Active	5	0	5
Deaths	2	0	2
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested			3,040

*Total includes a sailor from the USS *Theodore Roosevelt.*

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Health Care Corp.

San Nicolas, Alepuyo out as IPI lawyers

San Nicolas


Alepuyo

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Former CNMI attorney general Joey Patrick San Nicolas and Viola Alepuyo are no longer lawyers for casino operator Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC.

IPI's new lawyer, Michael Dotts, confirmed that San Nicolas is no longer IPI's general counsel.

San Nicolas, who served as CNMI attorney general from 2012 to 2014, started his first day as IPI general counsel last Jan. 6. San Nicolas also served as mayor of Tinian and Aguiguan from January 2015 to

See LAWYERS on Page 4

Interim final rule on US Workforce Act now out

WASHINGTON, D.C.— On May 14, 2020 (today in Washington, D.C. time), U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services will publish an interim final rule implementing the Northern Mariana Islands U.S. Workforce Act of 2018, which protects U.S. workers in the CNMI and ensures that U.S. workers will not be displaced or encounter a competitive disadvantage for employment compared to non-U.S. workers.

» **Rule creates new requirements for CNMI employers to protect US workers**

"In addition to implementing legislation, this rule follows the clear guidance laid out by President Trump's 'Buy American and Hire American'

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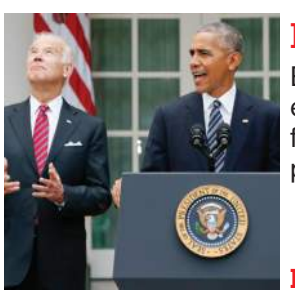
INSIDE

BUSINESS
Chow Time located along Middle Road is open once again and serving its well-loved dishes.
PAGE 13



NATION
Barack Obama is emerging as a central figure in the 2020 presidential election.
PAGE 14

ASIA
At least one community in the Chinese city of Wuhan is to begin mass testing for residents.
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Local

Stimulus portal to reopen by week's end

By IVA MAURIN
iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Finance's stimulus portal will reopen by the end of the week, for the next batch of stimulus checks set to be released next Friday, May 22.

Finance Secretary David Atalig said the portal is closed to facilitate the uploading of new data, for their verification check. There are also individuals and taxpayers who are still processing, or whose forms have just been submitted to the Division of Revenue & Taxation, and which are in the process of being entered into the system.

"When you submit your information, we verify if you've already received the stimulus check or not, so that it will either allow or disallow you from entering your information." Atalig said. "We will close it on Wednesday night, or Thursday, early morning midnight, so that we can process the next batch for the release on Friday."

"We plan to open it back up at the end of the week so that those on the second batch are encouraged to submit their information and opt-in in getting the direct deposit," he added.

The first batch of distribution was announced Tuesday, with the department distributing 27,020 stimulus checks amounting to $42.7 million. Every eligible individual gets up to $1,200 in stimulus, or $2,400 for joint returns. Each qualifying child also gets $500.

"We were given $37.6 million from the [Internal Revenue Service] at 80% of the total estimated award from the IRS for the stimulus. We're anticipating another $6 [million] to $8 million of checks or direct deposits for the stimulus for our residents and this includes those that have not submitted income returns," the secretary added.

The amount estimated for the CNMI, according to Atalig, was $48 million. "However, as we get returns and we get individuals that are qualified for the stimulus checks, we will be submitting in batches to the IRS and they will forward the funds to us. …This goes on from today, all the way through next year."

Those who did not have an income, or are SSI or SS recipients, must also fill out a form in order to get the stimulus.

'The portal is secure'

In line with the social distancing directives, particularly to minimize crowding at the post office, as well as the banks in line to cash the checks, the Department of Finance encourages people to use its online portal to sign up for direct deposit.

Atalig assures everyone that the portal is secure. "I do want to ensure the public that our portal is very secure. We're bound by IRS security standards so the information is very well secured. Anyone putting their information, their social security numbers, or their bank information will not [get compromised]."

Those who have submitted all their paperwork, but have not yet had their stimulus deposited or received their checks in the mail are encouraged to contact the Division of Revenue and Taxation at (670) 664-1000, or email stimulus@dof.gov.mp.

IN MEMORY OF MANY
2020 NATIONAL POLICE WEEK
HEROES LIVE FOREVER
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Department of Public Safety Employee Association, Inc.

CBF, CCC money to be used for COVID-19 response

By IVA MAURIN
iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

An initial $1 million from the elusive community benefit fund was handed to the Department of Finance to help with the COVID-19 response in the CNMI.

At the House of Representatives Special Committee on Federal Assistance and Disaster Related Funding meeting Wednesday, Finance Secretary David DLG Atalig said that, in addition to the check for the community benefit fund, Finance also tapped $2 million from Commonwealth Casino Commission funds to help in the COVID-19 operations.

"I did pull resources from the Casino Commission. I pulled $2 million from their account, as well as we did get an initial $1 million check from the community benefit fund," he said. Casino operator Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC endows the community benefit fund.

Atalig clarified, however, that a "stop payment" was put on the check. "I told them that we cannot receive it unless I use it all as a private donor into our funding, so they stopped payment on that check."

Any community benefit fund requests related to COVID-19 will be funneled through the Office of the Governor, which Gov. Ralph DLG Torres has to approve for use, up to $1 million, to be shared between the three islands—Saipan, Tinian, and Rota—for COVID-19 related expenses.

Atalig also revealed that they put in a request to pay for the two charter flights that earlier brought in personal protective equipment.

"We did put the requests. We did pay for two charter flights payments to bring in these PPEs and equipment, test kits. …The first 20,000 test kits were available but were sitting there, we needed to get back here as soon as we can, so we asked them [IPI] if they can pay for the charter flight. They did. That will count toward the community benefit fund," he added.

As for the money from CCC, Atalig said that Finance is currently holding the funds, as a reserve, to help ensure that the CNMI is fully covered in its COVID-19 response.

"The monies that I did pull, I did share with the commission that it is to respond to this COVID-19 situation we're in, and then when the situation calms, and the funds are still available, if I get the reimbursements from [the Federal Emergency Management Agency], then yes, I will return that back. That's the plan."

Guam Kumisión board meeting set

The Kumisión i Fino' CHamoru yan i Fina'nå'guen i Historia yan i Lina'la' i Taotao Tåno' (*Commission on CHamoru Language and the Teaching of the History and Culture of the Indigenous People of Guam*) will hold its May monthly meeting on May 21, 2020, Thursday, from 12:30pm to 3:30pm at the Guam Museum conference room, in Hagåtña. Call Roland Blas, Kumisión secretary, for special accommodations and agenda at (671) 480-4047 or email at rolandblas1973@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

Star Marianas postpones resumption of passenger flights

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Star Marianas Air Inc. decided yesterday to postpone the resumption of scheduled passenger flights between the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

The interisland carrier announced its decision after consultation with, and at the request of various CNMI government agencies. Instead of resuming operations today, Friday, their new target start of limited passenger operations is now May 22, 2020.

Star Marianas said this announcement does not affect their current operations of cargo flights, medical patient transfers, and COVID-19-related support flights.

Star Marianas assured that they will provide updates as they become available. "Passengers with paid confirmed bookings between Rota and Saipan can contact our reservation office at 670-433-9996/9998 between the hours of 8am and 12pm to arrange for a refund," the company said.

On Wednesday, Star Marianas announced its plan to resume passenger flights, supposedly starting today, Friday.

Commonwealth Ports Authority board's airport operations committee chair Barrie C. Toves said yesterday that the CNMI is now in a much better position and prepared with countermeasures established a few months ago.

"So it is inevitable that Star Marianas will resume inter island flights following United Airlines' lead," said Toves, who is a resident of Rota.

Rota currently has no COVID-19 case.

Star Marianas suspended its flights between Saipan, Tinian, and Rota starting last April 2, but continued to provide 24-hour emergency flight services for patient transfers and other transportation needs to support control efforts in the fight against the COVID-19. It also continued to provide interisland air cargo services between the CNMI and Guam.

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NMC offers 'Excused Withdrawal'

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Northern Marianas College is offering "Excused Withdrawal" for student who have been severely impacted by COVID-19 and who may not have been able to complete the coursework because of the pandemic. That means that, instead of a letter grade, a student will get an "EW" on their transcript of records.

According to NMC interim president Frankie Eliptico, EWs are not calculated in a student's cumulative Grade Point Average.

"If a student is unable to complete coursework due to impacts from COVID-19, a student may request for an 'Excused Withdrawal.' Upon approval, transcripts will reflect an 'EW' instead of a letter grade," he said.

Eliptico said students are encouraged to speak with their advisers to understand their individual circumstances concerning degree completion and when they plan to retake the course(s).

The college has also waived late fees or penalties for students enrolled in the spring 2020 semester.

NMC is concluding the current spring 2020 semester and is conducting final exams this week. The college is gearing up for the summer semester, which will be offered entirely online from June 22 to Aug. 1.

The college has also announced the availability of financial aid resources such as the Free Application for Federal Student Aid for the summer and fall semesters.

The college is still looking at a phased reopening of NMC campuses on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota for the fall semester.

The fall semester normally begins in August 2020, but the exact date of the reopening of NMC offices and continuation of face-to-face classes is being evaluated.

"The college will continue to be guided by the governor's COVID-19 directives and other health advisories to determine what is in the best interest of students' and employees' safety and welfare," said Eliptico.

Naraja re-opens traffic docket

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Superior Court Presiding Judge Roberto C. Naraja has issued an order that reopens the traffic docket, which means people with payable citations can now go pay their ticket and not have to appear in court.

In an order on Monday, Naraja said defendants who have been issued a payable traffic citation with an original court appearance date between March 19 and May 14, 2020, and wish to dispose of their case by paying the fine may now pay their citation.

The traffic docket was suspended for a while in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Naraja said defendants may appear at the clerk of court cashier's window at Guma Hustisia from Monday to Thursday between 8am to 11am. He said defendants may dispose of their case at any time before their scheduled court date.

If a defendant wishes to contest their payable citation, he or she must appear at the Supreme Court on the date he or she is ordered to appear at 9am on May 21, June, 18, and June 25, respectively.

Defendants may also appear telephonically as set by the office of the clerk of court prior to the hearing date.

Naraja said any individual who has been cited with a non-payable offense must appear at the Supreme Court for their matter.

The Office of the Attorney General will serve the penal summons on such individuals, along with an information, indicating what date the arraignment will take place.

Naraja said if an individual has been cited with a combination of non-payable and payable offenses, the individual must appear in person on the scheduled hearing date and cannot dispose of the case by paying their citation at the cashier's window.

"If uncertain, please call the office of the clerk of court at 783-9923 to verify if you have a payable or non-payable citation prior to the scheduled hearing date," he said.

JKPL reopens for limited services

The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library reopened last Monday, May 11, albeit only for limited services to the public. They are open from 9:30am to 12:30pm.

Although the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library facility emains temporarily closed to the public, it is able to provide free WiFi access point at the library's parking lot during hours of operation.

"We ask that the community please contact the phone number provided in order to avail of the free public service," JKPL said in a statement.

The WiFi password will be given to one per vehicle. Open e-books will be provided by library staff, which is a free e-book service. Free online community resources with links to databases are also available. Also you may ask a librarian to provide answers to general inquiries regarding library services information resources to help meet particular information needs.

All library materials due during this period of public onsite closure will be waived. The library recommends that patrons who have overdue materials to hold on to such materials until such time as the library is fully open to the public.

For public free service, you may call 670-235-7322/23 (READ) in order to be assisted.

To find the latest news and updates from the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library, visit their website at www.cnmilib.org and check out their social media on Facebook and Instagram for more information. ***(Chevy Alipio)***

LAWYERS

From Page 1

January 2019.

When sought for comments, Alepuyo confirmed that she has opened a private law firm and looks forward to private practice. Alepuyo was with IPI as external counsel since 2014, and as an internal counsel since 2015.

Kelley M. Butcher, who is currently in the U.S. mainland, may likely be out as IPI's counsel when her contract expires at the end of this month, a source said, who added that IPI wants Dotts and his law firm to serve as its new general counsel.

Dotts has been recently seen frequenting the Commonwealth Casino Commission.

IPI general counsel Phillip J. Tydingco had his last day on Dec. 13, 2019.

NMI

From Page 1

face masks in place and running in safe and efficient manner. Until May 23, government offices will be open four hours only, from 8am. to 12pm.

The next week, starting on May 24, government offices will open for the regular hours maintained by the office prior to the shutdown caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. At that point, the government will be fully open to the public.

"We stress that at all times the government offices and the public using those offices will need to practice proper social distancing, handwashing, and wearing of face masks. In that way, the government employees and the public using the government offices will stay safe," the directive states.

Non-essential employees will continue to have Fridays off according to prior issued work-hour reductions.

All government employees subject to work hour reductions will continue to observe those work hour reductions. Supervisors shall ensure that proper social distancing practices are maintained in their offices. ***(PR/Saipan Tribune)***

INTERIM

From Page 1

executive order, which called on the Department of Homeland Security to propose rules to protect the interests of U.S. workers in the administration of our immigration system," said USCIS deputy director for Policy Joseph Edlow.

Key among the changes, the IFR requires CW-1 employers to enroll in the E-Verify program with respect to all their hiring sites in the CNMI and elsewhere in the United States, and be a participant in good standing in the program. E-Verify is a web-based system that allows enrolled employers to confirm the eligibility of their employees to work in the United States.

The IFR also requires CW-1 employers to file a semiannual report to verify the continuing employment and payment of the CW-1 worker under the terms and conditions set forth in the CW-1 petition. USCIS is implementing this new statutory requirement through a new standalone form, Form I-129CWR, Semiannual Report for CW-1 Employers.

The IFR establishes that the semiannual report is required for all CW-1 petitions approved by USCIS with employment start dates in fiscal year 2020 for a validity period of six months or more. Since the IFR effective date June 18, 2020, falls after the sixth month of fiscal year 2020, USCIS is offering a one-time additional 60-day period in which affected employers may comply with the new semiannual report requirement. For petitions approved with start dates from Oct. 1, 2019, through Dec. 18, 2019, CW-1 employers will have until Aug. 17, 2020, to file Form I-129CWR as required in the IFR.

Other key updates in the IFR include:

■ Requiring a CW-1 petition to be filed with an approved temporary labor certification from the U.S. Department of Labor;

■ Establishing minimum wage requirements for a CW employer;

■ Establishing procedures for revoking an employer's CW-1 petition, based upon existing revocation grounds in place for other nonimmigrants; and

■ Incorporating the definition of legitimate business as set forth in the Workforce Act, including the requirement that CW-1 employers enroll in and be a participant in good standing in the E-Verify program as a condition of filing CW-1 petitions.

The Workforce Act required DHS to proceed by publishing an interim final rule and written comments will be considered in developing a final rule. The public may submit comments and related materials on or before July 13, 2020. Comments on the form, form instructions, and information collection revisions in this interim rule must be submitted on or before June 13, 2020. The interim final rule will go into effect on June 18, 2020. ***(PR)***

MASS

From Page 1

"We lost two lives, and this is very important for us to ensure that we don't lose any more lives, and don't lose families and [have them suffer] because of a lost life," said Muña during a news briefing Wednesday at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan in Garapan.

Muña said that, as the virus continues to evolve, the idea is for CHCC and the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force to figure out what's really in the community, which is significant because this will help CHCC conduct effective community surveillance. "How can we convince you all if we're going to open up the community with restrictive measures if we don't know what's in the community?" she added, highlighting why it's important to know if community transmission is happening.

The results of the community-based testing and the contact tracing being carried out by CHCC is what guides CHCC in what it can do and what can be recommended to Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, Muña said.

"I thank everyone [the community] for their contribution, their patience, and understanding of the restrictions that the government has [imposed]," said Muña. "It is really going to protect everyone."

She stated that it's important to protect all businesses, employees, customers, and the community for the sake of everyone's safety. "The testing capabilities and the adequate personal protective equipment to protect health care workers so that they can provide health care services to you is also significant," said Muña.

She pointed out that it is not common for all jurisdictions to have the testing capabilities that the CNMI has, and that "we are very fortunate to be able to test the entire community and then some."

She also applauded the CNMI public for its role in keeping the CNMI's number of infections low. "We didn't have to tell you what to do, you did it. …Pat yourself in the back for all the innovative ways you have put in place and it's because you care, and we care too."

Additionally, Muña stated that all precautionary measures, such as social distancing, proper hygiene, wearing a mask, etc., should still be followed until there is a vaccine.

More PPEs

Rep. Janet U. Maratita took to Facebook via a live video to announce that CHCC received another round of medical supplies, medical equipment and personal protective equipment that arrived at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport last Wednesday, May 13.

These include 30 ventilators, two portable X-ray machines, two portable ultrasound machines, 70 infusion pumps, and a huge supply of personal protective equipment for front-liners and medical workers.

To date, there are 19 confirmed COVID-19 cases in the CNMI, with two deaths, five active cases, and 12 recoveries.

COVID-19 on Guam

On May 12, 2020, the Joint Information Center reported one positive case of COVID-19 from the Guam Regional Medical City.

A confirmatory test was run on this sample by the Guam Public Health Laboratory, which returned as negative. According to the Joint Information Center in Guam, upon further assessment, the patient was not considered a probable case. All positive tests conducted at GRMC undergo confirmatory testing at GPHL.

To date, Guam has a total of 151 confirmed cases, with six deaths and 124 released from isolation.

As this is an evolving situation, information is subject to change with little to no notice.

Bruce Bateman, 72

» Wrote *Saipan Tribune* column even while in pain

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Former Marianas Visitors Authority marketing manager and CNMI Zoning board member Bruce Bateman passed away last Thursday due to cancer at the St. Luke's Medical Center in the Philippines. He was 72.

Bateman

Bateman is survived by his wife, Olivia Reyes-Bateman, and their 16-year-old son, Alexander.

Bateman worked at MVA from October 2008 to September 2017. He also served for four years as a member of the CNMI Zoning Board. He wrote a regular column, *Sour Grapes,* for the *Saipan Tribune*.

MVA board chair Marian Aldan-Pierce was saddened to learn about Bateman's passing. She said Bateman was MVA's marketing manager for many years and that he worked really well with their overseas representative offices.

After his departure from MVA, Bateman attended almost all of their board meetings, Aldan-Pierce said, and that Bateman was so supportive of them and their programs, which she really appreciated.

"Our heartfelt sympathies go to his family," she said.

Former Zoning board chair Diego Blanco said that Bateman was his vice chairman at the board. He extended his condolences to the family, and described Bateman as a "smart guy" who really cared for the CNMI.

Reyes-Bateman told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that her husband was diagnosed with cancer in November 2018 and was undergoing treatment when he passed away. She found it even more painful for her and their son because they were stuck here on Saipan when Bateman died. It was her brother who was assisting Bateman at St. Luke's at the time as she is on Saipan.

She said Bateman heard her voice during his last moments because she had instructed the doctor to put the cellphone next to his ear. "After I spoke to Bruce, I heard a long beeping sound of the machine, then the doctor told me he was gone," she said.

Reyes-Bateman said her husband left instructions in a will to have his body cremated. When everything is back to normal and safe to travel from COVID-19 without being quarantined, she and their son will go to the Philippines to bury his ashes.

"The memories will be remembered and cherished for the rest of my life. I will miss Bruce so much," she said.

Bateman's ashes are currently in an urn that is being kept at Reyes-Bateman family's house in Taytay, Rizal, Philippines.

She described Bateman as a very supportive father, and spent a lot of time with their son, Alexander, as both shared the same hobbies—swimming, biking, hiking, and others. She said Bateman was involved in their son's school activities, PTA meetings, and regularly communicates with his principals and teachers.

"Alexander will surely miss his Dad," she said. "I wish we could have spent more time together."

Born in Wichita, Kansas, Bateman had his own businesses in the U.S. mainland. In 1997, Bateman first arrived on Saipan and met Olivia, when he came to assist in the sales and marketing of a company where she worked. Since then, Bateman would regularly come to Saipan for a couple of years until July 2004, when he decided to stay on the island for good.

Bateman and Olivia got married at the Stars & Stripes Dinner Cruise on June 10, 2005, officiated by then-governor Juan N. Babauta. It was a double celebration as it was their son's first birthday.

The couple opened a small business, then Bateman started writing his column, *Sour Grapes,* with *Saipan Tribune*.

Reyes-Bateman is thankful to *Saipan Tribune*, saying that writing the weekly column kept Bateman's mind occupied and became therapeutic as well. She said she was with Bateman in Manila when he emailed *Saipan Tribune* editor Jayvee L. Vallejera to give him enough time to finish his column.

"He was really in debilitating pain but, because of his passion for writing and followers who were looking forward to reading his articles, he endured the pain and, in between breaks, he was able to complete his column," Reyes-Bateman recalled.

PSS awarded over $23M from CARES Act

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Public School System was officially awarded over $23 million from the Education Stabilization fund they have long been waiting for under the CARES Act.

According to a statement from PSS acting Finance chief Kimo Rosario, PSS was awarded the funding and would receive the funds once the drawdown process is completed.

RELATED NEWS

Kilili: PSS CARES Act $23.2 million ready for drawdown. PAGE 9

"Yes, PSS was awarded but the drawdown process still needs to take place," he said.

Tim Thornburgh, PSS Federal Programs manager, said in last Wednesday's Board of Education special board meeting that PSS can expect the process to be completed as soon as this Friday and the funds can be expected in PSS' accounts as early as next week.

Rosario reiterated that the funds received from the Education Stabilization Fund will be used to cover two critical areas—retiring PSS' fiscal year 2020 deficit and for preparations of next school year. Any remaining funds will be carried forward to augment PSS' next fiscal year budget

PSS still needs to pay off the remaining $1.4 million to personnel for missed pay periods, which were pay period 9 and 10.

"PSS paid our teachers in full for pay periods 8 and 9. [However], other employees [were paid] for pay period 8 only. Pay period 8 was 80 hours, pay period 9 was for 72 hours, and pay period 10 is for 16 hours," Rosario said.

PSS will also retire their debt with their vendors and contractors and that is equivalent to approximately $1.7 million. "Our accounts payable—or what we owe vendors and contractors—is at $1.7 million. We will also retire this outstanding obligation," he said.

PSS will also settle its debt with teachers for their summer pay; that totals about $3.4 million.

"We also still owe our 190-day contract employees their summer pay, which amounts to $3.4 million. PSS will also settle this debt," he said.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) said last week that the U.S. Department of Education informed him that it made a "calculation error" when dividing $27,940,945 in CARES Act Education Stabilization Funds between PSS and Gov. Ralph DLG Torres. After recalculation, funding for public schools increased from $22.4 million to $23.2 million. Funds provided to the Governor for Emergency Education Relief were cut from $5.6 million to $4.8 million.

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COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
Tel: (670) 664-2371 | Fax: (670) 664-2408 | Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS
RFQ20-GOV-068

Request for Qualification for Provisions of Architect/ Engineering Services
702 CIP Project Management Services

Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios through the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Office, (collectively, "**Commonwealth**") are soliciting sealed proposals from Architects and Engineers to provide Project Management Services for the Capital Improvement Projects funded under the 702 Covenant Funding.

Procurement procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001, or latest revision thereof. Public Law 15-95 (Local Preference Act) as amended by Public Law 15-118 does not apply to this Federally funded project. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

Selected Architects and Engineers (Project Managers) will be retained as independent contractors under the General Provision of the Contracting Officer or his designee. Project Managers will act as agents of the expenditure authority on assigned Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) to ensure that identified objectives are achieved within cost, time and legal requirements while maintaining effective stakeholder communications. Selected Project Managers will be retained of a one year contract with an option to renew for an additiional year at the discretion of the Commonwealth. Project Managers include Architects, Civil, Mechanical, Electrical Engineers, Geotechnical and Environmental Consultant.

Compensation for Project Managers services will be determined based on the number of assigned projects including payments for appoved staff and expenses. The Commonwealth will negotiate with the selected Project Managers to determine the scope of work and responsibilities. Individuals or firms selected as project managers would be precluded from providing any other services as a prime consultant advertised under the Capital Improvement Program.

Interested parties may pick up the applicable scope of work (SOW) and submittal requirements at the Office of Capital Improvement Program Office, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, beginning May 13, 2020 during working hours 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. – (Monday through Friday, except on holiday). Submittal of all qualifications must precisely follow the submittal requirements identified in the Scope of Work and Submittal Requirements.

Selection of individuals or firms for the provision of services shall be guided by the Commonwealth Department of Finance Division of Procurement & Supply, Procurement Regulations § 7070-30.3-305. To qualify, firms must have a valid CNMI Business License, currently licensed to practice engineering in the CNMI, and must hold a Certificate of Authorization, if applicable.

Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330 or the latest version of Standard Forms. Only professionally licensed firms with a valid CNMI business license will be considered. Statement of Qualifications will be evaluated and scored based on the following criteria:

1. Qualifications of personnel or sub-consultants – 40%
2. Past Experience and Performance as a Project Manager – 40%
3. Project Methodology – 20%
4. Fee Proposal – 0%

Discussions shall be conducted with the top three (3) ranked firms or with all the firms. After a selection is made, negotiations will be conducted with the highest qualified firm to determine the final fair and reasonable price of the contract for the work to be performed. The selected firm will be subjected to a responsibility and responsiveness determination in compliance with Section 3-301 of the CNMI Procurement Regulations. Questions regarding this RFQ must be in writing and submitted to Ms. Nerissa Benavente at nerissa.cip@gmail or fax number 670-664-2408.

Qualifications statements must be sealed and marked "RFQ20-GOV-068", **Project Management Services for the 702 CIP Projects**". For proposers within the CNMI, one original and one (1) copy of the qualification statement and in electronic form (USB) must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP, **no later than 9:00 a.m., on June 8, 2020**. Proposers located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of Intent to Propose. Notices of Intent to Propose must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply **no later than 9:00 a.m., ChST, on June 8, 2020** and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@cmnidof.net. For proposers located outside the CNMI, one original and one (1) copy of the sealed qualifications statement and in electronic (USB) must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than June 8, 2020, and must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply **no later than 9:00 a.m.,ChST on June 17, 2020**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies of the proposal may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

BREACH OF ETHICAL STANDARDS
(To be part of Solicitation for Quotes, ITBs, RFPs and RFQs)

• Gratuities. It shall be a breach of ethical standards for any person to offer, give or agree to give any employee or former employee, or for any employee or former employee to solicit, demand, accept or agree to accept from another person, a gratuity or an offer of employment in connection with any decision, approval, disapproval, recommendation, preparation of any part of a program requirement or a purchase request, influencing the content of any specification or procurement standard, rendering of advice, investigation, auditing or in any other advisory capacity in any proceeding or application, request for ruling, determination, claim or controversy, or other particular matter, pertaining to any program requirement or a contract or subcontract or to any solicitation or proposal therefore. NMIAC Section 70-30.3-725(a).

• Kickbacks. It shall be a breach of ethical standards for any payment, gratuity or offer of employment to be made by or on behalf of a subcontractor under a contract to the prime contractor or higher tier subcontractor or any person associated therewith as an inducement for the award of subcontractor or order. NMIAC Section 70-30.3-725(b)

• Contingent Fees. It shall be a breach of ethical standards for a person to be retained, or to retain a person, to solicit or secure government contracts upon an agreement or understanding for a commission, percentage, brokerage or contingent fee, except for retention of bona fide employees or bona fide established commercial selling agencies for the purpose of securing business. NMIAC Section 70-30.3-730.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfections in any proposal if, in its opinion to do so would be in the best interests of the CNMI government. All proposals shall become the sole property of the CNMI government.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfections in any proposal if, in its opinion to do so would be in the best interests of the CNMI government. All proposals shall become the sole property of the CNMI government.

Ralph DLG. Torres
Governor

Francisco C. Aguon
Acting Director, Procurement & Supply

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FHB donates $150K for relief distribution in Guam, Saipan

First Hawaiian Bank is donating $150,000 to four non-profit organizations working to meet the unprecedented community need for assistance in Guam and the CNMI.

With schools closed and many people out of work, more individuals and families with children are needing to seek assistance for the first time during the pandemic.

To help support these communities, First Hawaiian Bank will donate:

■ $50,000 to The Salvation Army Guam Food Bag Program

■ $50,000 to Todu Guam Foundation Care Package Program

■ $25,000 to Empty Vessel Ministry Foundation's Saipan Emergency Food Bank

■ $25,000 to Karidat Social Services' Saipan Emergency Food Program

"Our chairman, president, and CEO, Bob Harrison, believes in coming together as a community and wanted to help the people of Guam and Saipan who are affected by COVID-19," said Ed Untalan, Guam/CNMI Region manager. "The two $50,000 Guam gifts are also in honor of First Hawaiian achieving its 50th anniversary of serving the Guam community this year. We are grateful to our non-profit partners who are working to ensure that individuals and families receive food and the basic necessities they need during this pandemic."

With school closures and the growing number of workers being laid off or furloughed, non-profit agencies focusing on food supply across the region are experiencing exponential increases in demand for food assistance.

In Guam, The Salvation Army Guam Food Bag Program, which usually distributes 50 food bags per month, is now distributing 20-30 bags of food daily. "With the high volume of food we are distributing daily, this generous gift will ensure The Salvation Army's ability to continue our efforts for months to come," said Maj. Thomas Stambaugh, The Salvation Army Guam Corps officer. The donation will allow Salvation Army Guam to distribute over 800 food bags to families in need.

Todu Guam Foundation, which does outreach to the most vulnerable low-income families, will use the donated funds to deliver door-to-door care packages containing face masks, hand sanitizers and bars of soap to over 1,400 families. "It has become increasingly clear that the transmission of the COVID-19 virus is greatly reduced through intensified hand hygiene measures and the use of face masks," said Dennis Rodriguez Jr., co-founder of Todu Guam Foundation. "Through the generosity of First Hawaiian Bank, we are committed to working with community partners to help eliminate boundaries to much needed resources." ***(PR)***

Traffic citations: What to do

Individuals and corporations who have been issued a payable traffic citation with an original court appearance date between March 19, 2020, and May 14, 2020, and wish to dispose of their case by paying the fine, may appear at the Clerk of Court cashier's window at Guma Hustisia from Monday to Thursday, between 8am and 11am to pay their citation. Defendants may dispose of their case at any time before their scheduled court date.

If a defendant wishes to contest their payable citation, they must appear at the Guma Hustisia, Supreme Court foyer on the date they are ordered to appear at 9am on: May 21, 2020; June 18, 2020; and June 25, 2020, respectively.

Any individual who has been cited with a non-payable offense must appear at the Guma Hustisia, Supreme Court foyer for their matter. If an individual has been cited with a combination of non-payable and payable offenses, the individual must appear in person on the scheduled hearing date and cannot dispose of the case by paying their citation at the cashier's window.

For any inquiry regarding matters above, call 236-9703 or email superior.court@nmijudiciary.com for more information. ***(PR)***

NMC arms students for finals week

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Northern Marianas College has gone above and beyond to help its students this finals week with resources to ensure that they can complete their exams, according to NMC interim president Frankie Eliptico.

He said the college is providing technical resources to students in need like laptops and wireless internet devices so they could complete their finals, which are being monitored through Zoom in accordance with social distancing laws in place due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"NMC understands the importance of providing necessary tools for success. The college has provided a limited number of technical devices such as laptops and [WiFi] devices to students who do not have access to a computer or internet connection. We are working to see how we can access and offer other resources to support student learning," he said.

As a response to COVID-19 and social distancing and other health advisories, NMC's face-to-face classes were migrated to a virtual format using Zoom through Moodle Online. Final exams were also administered remotely to ensure compliance with social distancing.

"The college has been working with its students and faculty to ensure they can access various services to meet all coursework expectations and learning outcomes. In accordance with the Governor's Social Distancing Guidance Directive, the college has continued to deliver programs and services to students via Zoom, a video conferencing app," he said.

To ensure students are not cheating on their final exams, Eliptico said participating in a video conference with their instructors is required.

"Integrity is important at NMC. Finals for virtual courses may require students to participate in video conferencing with instructors via Zoom through NMC's Moodle Online. Additionally, learning is assessed through various course activities throughout the semester and not just the final exam," he said.

Exams are also submitted virtually so that students and instructors are not put at risk and also to comply with social distancing protocols. "Exams may be uploaded and submitted through Moodle Online. Exams may be submitted via email as well. Courses that require portfolios may require submission of portfolios through a Google shared drive, Google folder or through email. Students are made aware of exam expectations by their respective instructors," he said.

Finals week runs from May 11 through May 16.

UOG summer classes will be held online

The University of Guam's summer sessions will be held completely online. Courses will be offered through Moodle and other virtual meeting platforms. There will be no in-person classes for the summer sessions.

Summer courses are available in three sessions. Session A begins June 1, Session B begins June 8, and Session C begins July 6.

Students can view the course schedule at https://url.uog.edu/finakpo2020.

■ Registration is now open. Contact the Office of Admissions and Records for further guidance at admitme@triton.uog.edu or 735-2214. ***(PR)***

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(6) Trash Collector - Atleast High School graduate. With valid driver's license. Needs to be physically fit and willing to work flexible time and must be hardworking.

(2) Security Guard - Wide security experience in access systems, patrolling, investigative procedures, incident report writing, and customer service. Willing to work flexible time.

(3) Househelper - Experienced in household chores. Willing to work flexible time.

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We are seeking for high energy individuals with a positive, can do attitude.
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GUEST RELATIONS (3)
High School Diploma is required. Two years of work experience in Concierge or Customer Service in hotel industry. Proficient in languages of Korean or Chinese or Russian is required due to the demographic of visitors/tourist to Saipan.

BUILDING MAINTENANCE (7)
Must have a High School diploma or equivalent. No more than 24 months of work experience as building maintenance. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays. Must be able to lift up to 50lbs regularly. Safely climb ladders while carrying up to 40lbs. Able to stand, walk, sit, climb or balance, stoop, crawl kneel work at height up to 100 feet. Work under extreme weather condition s. Solid understand of technical aspects of plumbing, carpentry, electrical systems. Official apprenticeship preferred.

ACCOUNTING SUPERVISOR (1)
Bachelor's degree in Accounting. 48 months of work experience. Strong knowledge of Excel and Word and must be knowledgeable in using Opera (Property Management System), Micros Symphony, MAS 90 (integrating the General Ledger, Accounts Payable, Purchase Order, and Inventory Management modules) and Online Bank Business Connection (WebCash Management System).

BAKER (3)
High School Diploma is required. 6 months of work experience. Knowledge and experience in hotel/resort as baker is an advantage, Must be able to work flexible hours including weekends and holidays. The employee must regularly lift and/or move up to 10-25 pounds. Apprenticeship from recognized technical school preferred.

BARTENDER (3)
High School Diploma is required. Possess a strong knowledge in service standards, guest relations an etiquette. At least 12 months experience, must be over 21 years old. Must be able to work flexible shifts (weekends, holidays, night and days) able to stand long periods of time.

COOK (17)
High School Diploma is required. Knowledge and experience in hotel/resort as a cook is an advantage. 12 months' work experience. Must be able to lift and/or move up to 10-25 pounds. Must be able to work flexible shifts, weekends and holidays.

F&B SUPERVISOR (9)
High School diploma. No more than 12 months' experience in supervisory level. Able to work weekends, holiday and flexible shifts.

FINANCIAL CONTROLLER (1)
• Bachelor's degree in Accounting • CPA license preferred • 5 - 7 years of accounting experience • Solid working knowledge of accounting principles and financial statement presentation • Well organized with strong attention to detail • Proficient with technology • Strong written and verbal communication skills • Experience within hospitality or similar industry

Applications must be received by 5:00pm on Friday, May 15th, 2020.
PIC applications are available at the PIC Security Desk by the Loading Dock/Employee Entrance.
Incomplete applications will NOT be accepted or considered.
PIC is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF Gregorio Cabrera Deleon Guerrero
CA NO. 20-0103
SUA SPONTE ORDER
Petition for Letters of Administration
DATE: June 18, 2020
TIME: 10:00 a.m.
JUDGE: Judge Joseph N. Camacho

FOR GOOD CAUSE, because of the CNMI Supreme Court COVID Order No. 2 (Effective April 4, 2020 to June 5, 2020) issued on April 1, 2020, the following case that is currently set for May 14, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. before Judge Joseph N. Camacho is now moved to June 18, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.

All parties are ordered to appear.

SO ORDERED this 2nd day of April 2020.

/s/
JOSEPH N. CAMACHO, Associate Judge

ROBERT TENORIO TORRES F0197
ATTORNEY AT LAW
P.O. Box 503758 CK
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. (670) 234-7859
Fax. (670) 234-5749
E mail: robert.torres@rttlawgroup.com

Attorney for Petitioner Bertha C. Leon Guerrero

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF MARCELINO DLG. CAMACHO Deceased.
Civil Action No. 20-0117-CV
NOTICE OF HEARING AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS
DATE: June 25, 2020
TIME: 10:00 a.m.
JUDGE: Joseph Norita Camacho

TO: THE GENERAL PUBLIC, ANY HEIRS, CLAIMANTS, OR CREDITORS OF THE LATE MARCELINO DLG. CAMACHO OR HIS ESTATE:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Bertha C. Leon. Guerrero ("Petitioner") has petitioned the Superior Court to issue Letters of Administration and to appoint petitioner as administratrix of the **ESTATE OF MARCELINO DLG. CAMACHO**, the deceased. The attorney for Petitioner is Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, whose address is Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya) P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950.

The hearing on the Petition is scheduled to be heard on the date at the time set forth above at the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands. All interested persons and entities should appear at the hearing.

Any and all persons, creditors, or entities having claims against the deceased or his Estate are hereby required by the law to file their claims with the Clerk of Court within sixty (60)days of this publication or claim(s) will be barred. A copy of your claims should also be sent to ROBERT T. TORRES, Attorney at Law, at the above address.

Respectfully submitted this _day of April 2020.

__/s/_____
CLERK OF COURT/DEPUTY CLERK

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEY FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION, Plaintiff, -v- AGRIPINA I. GIODA and MICHAEL J. GIODA, DEFENDANTS
CIVIL ACTION NO. 18-0103

SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANTS:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is served upon you hereby, within twenty-one (21) days after the fourth publication of this Summons, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC, the Plaintiff's attorney, whose address is Post Office Box 5222, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

Dated April 22, 2020 by order of the Court:

/s/ Clerk of Court

NMC-CREES is awarded $1.79M for pineapple cultivation research

A pineapple that grew on a tissue culture multiplied plant. DR. VIRENDRA M. VERMA/CREES

Tissue culture multiplication of pineapple plants. DR. VIRENDRA M. VERMA/CREES

The Northern Marianas College's Cooperative Research, Extension, and Education Services was recently awarded $1.79 million to research commercial pineapple cultivation in the CNMI.

The project, which is funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture, will concentrate on tissue culture multiplication and the development of sustainable, climate-resilient, commercial cultivation of pineapple farming systems in the region.

"We chose pineapple as a target food crop for production because of its nutritional benefits, as well as its potential for commercial production," said Dr. Virenda M. Verma, project director for the pineapple study.

Verma, who has been a leading horticultural biotechnologist involved in agricultural research in the Micronesian region for over 20 years, said that the research project was developed based on input from agriculture professionals and stakeholders of the CNMI.

"We specifically designed this project to meet the local needs of the community," Verma said.

According to Verma, the average crop yield of a properly managed pineapple farm can be about 50-60 tons per hectare.

"The commercial cultivation of pineapple in the CNMI would promote food and nutritional security," Verma said.

NMC-CREES interim dean Patty Coleman said that with the grant, the college will now be able to build a new plant biotechnology laboratory, or PBL, to be used to initiate tissue culture operations.

"We are excited to be able to have the resources to further study this great economic opportunity for the Commonwealth," Coleman said.

The PBL will house specialized rooms for equipment sterilization, aseptic inoculation and culture maintenance, and green and screen houses. The new facility can be also used to house future biotechnology projects.

According to Coleman, the pineapple project will be done to ensure the year-round availability of high-quality planting material of pineapple in CNMI.

The main objectives are to design and establish an appropriate plant biotechnology facility, produce elite and disease-free seedlings of locally preferred pineapple cultivars through tissue culture multiplication, and provide appropriate recommendations to local farmers for sustainable, commercial, climate-resilient pineapple production.

"This is an amazing feat for our small island community," said Frankie Eliptico, NMC interim president. "The additional research lab will open new opportunities for our island residents, as well as help ensure that pineapple production will contribute to our local economy."

NMC-CREES provides research and technical advice in the fields of agriculture, aquaculture, natural resources, community and youth development, health, and nutrition that is locally sustainable, environmentally safe, and economically feasible, in order to enhance the well-being and improve the quality of life of the people living in the CNMI. For more information on NMC-CREES, visit crees.marianas.edu. ***(PR)***

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy sweet 16th birthday to our superstar, the greatest big sister in the world, Maria Maelaine. May your day be filled with love, laughter and abundant blessings! Greetings come from all the family.

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS
Tel: (670) 234-3751 • Website: www.dpl.gov.mp • Email: dpl@dpl.gov.mp
Facebook Address: facebook.com/DPLCNMI

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF PROPOSED LEASE OF PUBLIC LAND

In accordance with Section 106 (b) of Public Law 15-2, the Department of Public Lands hereby gives notice of its intent to lease certain public land in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Any interested parties of the general public may submit comments, data, views, or arguments of alternative proposals for the lease of the public land. As further provided by Public Law 15-2, the following pertinent information is required to be published.

i. The proposed lease of public land is described as Lot 182 E 01 containing an area of approximately 4,545 square meters, more or less, situated in Lower Base, Saipan. A map showing the location of the parcel is available at the Department of Public Lands and website www.dpl.gov.mp for inspection.
ii. The prospective lessee is Triple Star International Corporation. The lists of officers for Triple Star International Corporation are Wei Gang Xiong, as President, Zhang Qing, as Corporate Secretary.
iii. The proposed lease is compliant with DPL regulations and was negotiated by the officers and directors of Triple Star International Corporation, mainly Wei Gang Xiong.
iv. The lessee shall use the premises solely for the purpose of the providing recycling services that collect, recycle, and market scrap materials, and the retail sale of electronics and appliances.

The term of the proposed lease agreement is 25 years.

The proposed annual rental during the term of the lease agreement is based on a percentage of the appraised fair market value of the property plus the applicable percentage of Business Gross Receipts in DPL's regulation.

v. A copy of the proposed lease agreement may be obtained at the office of the Department of Public Lands, located on the 2nd floor of the Joeten Dandan Commercial Building in Dandan, Saipan; 1st floor of the De'Ana Commercial Building, Songsong Village, Rota; or the 1st floor of the Kings Commercial Building, Tinian. A copy will also be available online at www.dpl.gov.mp
vi. The Department of Public Lands has received no alternative proposals to lease the subject public land in Lower Base, Saipan.
vii. The Secretary of the Department of Public Lands shall accept written comments, views, arguments or alternative proposals from interested parties on or before May 26, 2020 at the Department of Public Lands offices located in Saipan, Rota or Tinian.

NUTISIAN I MAPROPONI NA ATKILON TÅNU´ PUPBLIKU

Gi sigun Seksiona 106 (b) gi Lain Pupbliku 15-2, i Dipåttamentun Tanu' Pupbliku mannåå'i guini nutisia put i intensiona para u atkila finitmi na tanu' pupbliku giya Saipan, Commonwealth gi Sangkattan na Islas Mariånas. Maseha håyi na pattida ni intirisao gi hålum henerål pupbliku siña muna'hålum upiñon, imfotmasion, pat testimoniun kinontra gi tinahguin prinoponi siha para i atkilon nu i tanu' pupbliku. Kumu mapribeni mås mo'na ginin i Lain Pupbliku 15-2, i tinattitiyi pettanesin na imfotmasion manisisita para u mapupblika.

i. I maproponi na atkilon tanu' pupbliku madiskribi kumu Lot 182 E 01 ni konsisisti kåsi 4,545 square meters, mås pat menus, ni gaigi gi Lower Base, iya Saipan. I kopian måpa nu i påttin i lugåt managuaha gi ufisinan Dipåttamentun Tanu' Pupbliku yan website gi www.dpl.gov.mp para inspeksion.
ii. I "prospective lessee" i "Triple Star International Corporation". I listan i ufisiåt siha para i Triple Star International Corporation si Wei Gang Xiong, kumu Presidenti, Zhang Qing, kumu Sekritåriun "Corporate."
iii. I maproponi na atkilon ha tattiyi i regulasion DPL siha yan manegosiu ginin i ufisiåt yan direktot i Triple Star International Corporation, mayutmentu si Wei Gang Xiong.
iv. I lessee debi na u usa i lugåt para atyu na rason na para u pribeniyi "recycling" na sitbisiu ni ha rikohi, "recycle," yan bendi i mansopbla na matiriåt siha, yan para u fambendi "electronics" yan "appliances."

I tema nu i maproponi na kontråtan atkilon sa bentisingku (25) åñus na tiempu.

I maproponi na atkilu gi kada' såkkan gi durântin i teman i kontråtan atkilon mapega gi pusentu nu i bålin "appraised fair market" i propiedåt yan i propiu na pusentun i Risibun Hina'halum Bisnis gi halum regulasion i DPL.

v. I kopian nu i maproponi na Kontråtan Atkilon siña machuli' gi ufisinan i Dipåttamentun Tanu' Pupbliku, ni gaigi gi sigundu (2nd) na bibiendan i Joeten Dandan Commercial Building iya Dandan, Saipan, primet (1st) na bibiendan i De'Ana Commercial Building, iya Songsong Village, Luta; pat i primet (1st) na bibiendan i Kings Commercial Building, giya Tini'an. I kopia debi lokkui' na managuaha online gi www.dpl.gov.mp
vi. I Dipåttamentun Tanu' Pupbliku tåya marisibi ni håfa na tinahguin inofresi siha ni para u ma'atkila i suhetu na tanu' pupbliku gi Lower Base, Saipan.
vii. I Sekritårian Dipåttamentun Tanu' Pupbliku ha aksesepta tinigi' upiñon, imfotmasion, testimoniun kinontra pat tinahguin prinoponi siha ginin i manintirisåo na pattida siha gi pat åntis di May 26, 2020 gi ufisinan Dipåttamentun Tanu' Pupbliku siha ni gaigi giya Sa'ipan, Luta pat Tini'an.

ARONGORONG REEL POMMWOL ATKKILÓÓNOL FALUWEER TOULAP

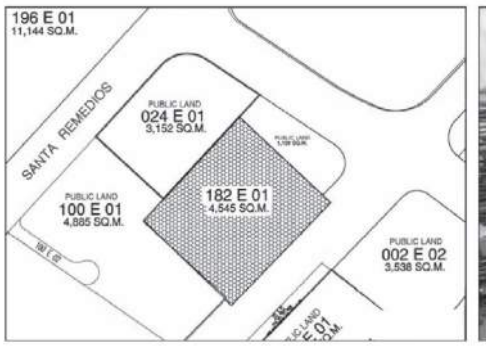
Sángi Tálil 106 (b) reel Alléghúl Toulap 15-2, Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap e attotoowow arongorong reel igha re mángemángil rebwe atkkilaay akkááw faluweer toulap llól Seipél, Commonwealth Téél Falúw kka Efáng llól Marianas. Schóó kka re mwuschel isiisilong kkapas, data, views, ngáre angiingi reel pommwol atkkilóónol faluweer toulap. Eyoor sángi Alléghúl Toulap 15-2, arongorongol ikka e amwirimwiritiw ebwe akkatééwow.

i. Faluweer toulap iye rebwe atkkilaay e bwáálló bwe Lot 182 E 01 ebwe bwáá bwe 4,545 reel square meters, elapeló ngáre eghus, iye e lo Lower Base, Seipél. Eyoor pappidil falúw yeel me Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap me website www.dpl.gov.mp
ngáre u mwuschel amwuri.
ii. Schóól Atkkilóón nge Triple Star International Corporation. Ikkal list-al "officers" me Triple Star International Corporation nge Wei Gang Xiong, bwe "President", Zhang Qing, Bwe "Corporate Secretary".
iii. Pommwol Atkkilóón nge e angúúngú ngáli mwóghutughutúl DPL me e abwungubwung sángi "officers" me "directors-il" Triple Star International Corporation, i Wei Gang Xiong.
iv. Schóól Atkkilóón ebwe yááyá falúw bwulul ebwe ayoorai angaangil "recycling" iye ebwe bweibwogh, "recycle", me "market scrap materials", me akkaméélól "electronics" me "appliances".

Pommwol abwungubwungúl Atkkilóón nge ruweigh me limoow ráágh.

Pommwol atkkilóónol ghal ráágh nge e lo reel percentage sángi appraised fair market value reel falúw ebwal schuulong applicable percentage reel Business Gross Receipts llól mwóghutughutúl DPL.

v. Pappidil pommwol abwungubwungúl Atkkilóón emmwel ubwe bweibwogh mereel Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap, iye e lo 2nd floor reel Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Seipél; 1st floor reel De'Ana Commercial Building, apilómwol Songsong, me Luuta; ngáre 1st floor reel Kings Commercial Building, Tchiliyól. Ebwal yoor pappidil mille online me www.dpl.gov.mp
vi. Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap rese bweibwogh pommw iye re siiweli ngáli Atkkilóón iye e lo weiláng reel faluweer toulap me Lower Base, Seipél.
vii. Sekkretóóriyal Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap emmwelil bweibwogh ischil mángemáng, views, angii ngáre pommw iye re siiweli sángi schóó kka re mwuschel wóól ngáre mmwali May 26, 2020 me Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap me Seipél, Luuta, ngáre Tchiliyól.



Making the best out of the worst time

In the three months that Richelle, 18, of Dandan, has been in quarantine, she has started a small business–making flower crowns.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Some learn to cook or bake. Others start a garden. Since the semi-quarantine to stop the spread of COVID-19 was implemented in the CNMI, the limited movement and being restricted to one's home haven't stopped some people from using their creativity as a coping mechanism.

Many people that *Saipan Tribune* spoke with for this story declined to be identified, with many saying they'd prefer to keep their anonymity, but were willing enough to show what they've been doing.

Davian, 20, of Kagman, for example, has been focusing on working with different art forms using oil pastel. She also cited learning different languages as a new hobby. "I now have more time to do that, so that'll be something I plan to work more on." She is open to even having more new hobbies and talents and, while the idea is still in the back of her mind, "that doesn't mean it won't be possible.

During the three months that Richelle, 18, of Dandan, has been in quarantine, she decided to homeschool her three younger siblings and two nieces. "I usually do homeschooling from 10am to 3pm with lunch break included. I actually started this last month and I want to continue doing this just to make sure the kids don't forget about education while in quarantine."

She also decided to take up gardening as her new hobby. "I'm looking at what plants I'd want to begin with, as well as a location at home to begin my gardening. I'm hoping it'll turn out great. I've also started a small business in which I make flower crowns and I already have people interested in buying them."

Arriane, 18, of San Antonio village has kept busy exercising and maintaining her good health. "I keep reminding myself to stay physically active at home with exercising, eating healthy, and staying hydrated." She is also learning how to cook different types of food. She urged the community to always monitor their health during these times. "Drink lots of water, eat fruits, and vegetables to boost your immune system."

Richard, 24, of Chalan Kanoa, has been focused on his favorite hobby—making music. "Producing music and experimenting with music in different kinds of ways has been really fun for me," he said.

Despite the restriction, he credits the quarantine for giving him more time to spend with his hobby because, without it, he would have a busy schedule during the "normal days."

Raini, 16, of Kagman said she has been keeping up with her schoolwork like Khan Academy and Achieve3000. "It is interesting to do schoolwork online these days but we eventually need to adjust ourselves as a student."

She has also been keeping up with different workouts at home. "I've been doing Chloe Ting's workout challenges and this makes me look forward to every day."

She said this pandemic is teaching everyone to appreciate the small things. "It is shocking to see how much we can lose just in the blink of an eye." ***(Chevy Alipio)***

FAFSA deadline for NMC summer session is June 5

Northern Marianas College financial aid specialist Roy Alegre helps a participant fill out financial aid application forms during NMC's "Cash for College" event in 2019.

NMC

New college students who are looking to access federal financial aid for the Northern Marianas College's summer 2020 session are asked to file a Free Application for Federal Student Aid, or FAFSA, form by Friday, June 5, 2020.

The Federal Financial Aid program is administered by the U.S. Department of Education. Through the program›s various types of grants, loans, and scholarships, the Federal Financial Aid program is the largest financial aid provider in the U.S.

The FAFSA is available online at fafsa.ed.gov and can also be completed by using the myStudentAid smartphone app available for iOS and Android. NMC's school code is 015746.

To verify eligibility for Pell Grants, applicants can contact the NMC Financial Aid Office through email at fao@marianas.edu. Those who have already submitted a 2019-2020 FAFSA do not need to reapply or re-submit a FAFSA for the summer session.

NMC's summer session offers virtual and online business, education, math, nursing, and science courses. For more information on the summer 2020 session, contact the Office of Admissions and Records at oar@marianas.edu or visit www.marianas.edu. ***(PR)***

THINGS TO KNOW

As of May 14, 2020. All information may change without prior notice. For corrections and additions to this list, send an email to editor@saipantribune.com or call 235-6397 or 235-2440.

BECQ announces updated hours of operation

The Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality has announced that they are now providing services to the public from Monday to Friday, 9am–3pm, during the current government shutdown caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

BECQ will be practicing social distancing and safety measures for the protection of their visitors and staff. The designated visitor's entrance will be the BECQ main entrance and visitors parking will be in the front of the BECQ building. For details, click on link at www.saipantribune.com

FAQs: Employee Retention Credit under the CARES Act

The Employee Retention Credit under the CARES Act encourages businesses to keep employees on their payroll. The refundable tax credit is 50% of up to $10,000 in wages paid by an eligible employer whose business has been financially impacted by COVID-19. For details, go to https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/faqs-employee-retention-credit-under-the-cares-act.

Updated Government Resource listing

The CNMI government has issued an updated government resource listing as of May 11, 2020, which includes all government offices and agencies that are still operational and offering services to the public during the governor›s public health emergency. See Page 10 of today's *Saipan Tribune*. For additional details, click on link at www.saipantribune.com.

How Trump admin is supporting the CNMI

The Trump administration outlines how it is supporting the people of the CNMI in this time of the COVID-19 pandemic. For details, click on link at www.saipantribune.com.

USDA outlines telehealth service changes

The U.S. Department of Agriculture issues a summary of key service changes to increase the use of telehealth in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. These measures include allowing rural health clinics and federally qualified health centers to serve as "distant site" providers, increasing the types of services that the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services can deliver via telehealth, and allowing certain telehealth services to be delivered to Medicare recipients by phone. For details, go to https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDARD/bulletins/289d418.

USDA RD takes steps to help

USDA Rural Development has taken a number of immediate actions to help rural residents, businesses and communities affected by the COVID-19 outbreak. Rural Development will keep our customers, partners, and stakeholders continuously updated as more actions are taken to better serve rural America. Visit www.rd.usda.gov/coronavirus for more information. Or click on https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDARD/bulletins/2894700.

SBA Fact Sheet

The U.S. Small Business Administration has issued a "Fact Sheet for the CNMI" about the Paycheck Protection Program and Economic Injury Disaster Loans. Read it by clicking on the link at www.saipantribune.com.

Commerce Department in operation

The CNMI Department of Commerce will continue to provide services to the CNMI business community via means of teleworking.

For direct support and services, the CNMI is advised to contact the support team via the department's website at info@commerce.gov.mp and indicate the attention to the respective division or section for the appropriate services. See DOC advisory at the link at www.saipantribune.com.

FBI alert vs online scams

FBI issue an alert to the public to be on the lookout for scams that exploit the current COVID-19 pandemic. See FBI advisory at the link on www.saipantribune.com.

Process for mass testing

Mass testing for COVID-19 is ongoing at the Saipan International Airport. The test is free. People interested in being tested for COVID-19 can request for an appointment for specimen collection on the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. website at https://chcc.gov.mp/covid19testing.php or over the phone through the COVID-19 Info Line. For more information, see link at www.saipantribune.com.

Kilili: PSS CARES Act $23.2 million ready for drawdown

A total of $23,163,734 for the CNMI Public School System is now ready for drawdown.

The U.S. Department of Education in Washington informed Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) yesterday that the transfer of CARES Act funds had been made. And Sablan met with the PSS leadership on Saipan to confirm the money was received.

"This should be a tremendous relief to PSS teachers and staff," Sablan said. "The PSS leadership told me they will now be able to pay all their employees. This money also gives PSS more ability to provide online learning. Even sheltered in place, Marianas students have a constitutional right to an education; and we have a responsibility to make sure their schooling continues."

It has been seven weeks since Congress passed the CARES Act with the funding for education in the Northern Marianas and nationwide. State funding was quickly distributed under a 30-day timeline set in the law. But the U.S. Department of Education took more time with the money for the CNMI, American Samoa, Guam, and the Virgin Islands.

Sablan would not leave Washington until last week, when the department finally announced the allocation for the island areas and sent the necessary application materials to PSS.

"In transit, I spoke with Assistant Secretary Frank Brogan to thank him, but I also got a commitment from him that the money would be at PSS' disposal this week. And he kept his word," said Sablan, who chairs the congressional subcommittee responsible for federal elementary and secondary education policy nationwide.

Make PSS whole

Sablan is not completely satisfied, though, with how the USDOE handled the CARES Act funding for island schools. "Instead of giving all the money to help teachers and students, the Trump administration decided to carve off $4.8 million for Gov. [Ralph DLG] Torres," Sablan said. Other island governors also got a special set-aside from the department.

"As I wrote Gov. Torres on May 5, I think he should turn over all that money to schools in the Marianas and make PSS whole," Sablan said.

The Commonwealth budgeted $37.7 million for PSS in the fiscal year 2020 Appropriations Act. Only $11.9 million has been conveyed to the school system, however, leaving a balance of $25.8 million. The CARES Act funding of $23.2 million for PSS covers most of that balance, but there is still a remaining $2.6 million needed to meet the Commonwealth's original commitment to teachers, staff, and students.

Sablan urged Torres to use all of his $4.8 million "to help cover the unbudgeted costs of providing online learning, while schools throughout the Marianas are closed by the pandemic."

Sablan also announced Wednesday that House Democrats have introduced new relief legislation that will help schools get through the coronavirus crisis. The HEROES Act contains additional funding of approximately $81 million for Marianas schools.

"These education stabilization funds could cover all of the next school year for PSS, [Northern Marianas College], and [Northern Marianas Technical Institute]. And there is additional money in the HEROES Act just for colleges, which [NMC] will also qualify for," Sablan said. ***(PR)***

PSS rolls out first phase of WOW program

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Public School System launched the first phase of its WiFi on Wheels, or WOW program, last Wednesday and expects the program to grow once word starts to circulate in the community.

According to Lorraine Catienza, PSS Distance Education coordinator, the first day went as expected. Not too many availed of the free WiFi, but PSS expects the number to rise as word about the WOW program spreads, she said.

"We're still waiting for more people to come check it out. We're not too sure if people heard about the pilot yet. Hopefully, throughout the week we'll have more people coming out to use the WiFi," she said.

Each PSS bus, which is equipped with WiFi, can accommodate 30-40 devices and the WOW program has four buses. Come June 1, PSS will expand the WOW program to the whole island of Saipan, on a rotation schedule. For now, Kagman is Phase 1 of the WOW program since Kagman village has limited public internet access.

"We are going to be expanding come June 1 after testing here in Kagman. We're going to be on a rotation schedule like Mondays in the north, Tuesdays and Wednesdays in different parts of the island, and Thursday and Fridays in a different area. This way, the whole island can have access to WOW," Catienza said.

She assures parents that the WOW program's devices have content filtering so inappropriate sites are inaccessible. Each device has download speeds of up to 10 megabytes.

"We have both providers on the bus so, if I'm not mistaken, it downloads up to 10 megabytes per device and each bus has four devices," she said.

The WOW program is being funded for four months or up until schools reopen in September. The program is a partnership between PSS, IT&E, and DOCOMO Pacific.

The goal of WOW is to support continued learning enrichment, communication, and access to information for students and community members who do not have internet access at home. PSS has equipped its school busses with WiFi capabilities and will mobilize them in strategic locations throughout the islands.

UOG to hold virtual commencement on June 18

The University of Guam will hold a virtual commencement ceremony for its Fañomnåkan 2020 semester at 7pm on Thursday, June 18. The event will be livestreamed on Facebook and the UOG website. All Fañomnåkan graduates will also be welcome to walk in any future commencement ceremony after the public health emergency has ended.

"Commencement is an important tradition in the lives of our college graduates. It represents the culmination of their hard work to earn their degrees and the beginning of the next chapter in their lives," said UOG president Thomas W. Krise. "Despite the circumstances caused by the coronavirus, proceeding with a virtual commencement ceremony allows us to honor the accomplishments and perseverance of our students."

Additional details about the ceremony will be sent to students next week. ***(PR)***

IT&E wins at the national Annual Excellence in Marketing Awards

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

IT&E's print advertisement for the IT&E Song Challenge is the winner of the Print Advertising (Carrier) category of the CCA's Excellence In Marketing Awards. Pictured from left are Jay Shedd, senior director of Sales, Marketing and Customer Service; Jim Oehlerking, CEO; Ed Valencia, graphic designer; Angela Rosario, director Product and Marketing; and Rubyjane Buhain-Redila, Brand and Public Relations manager, all with IT&E.

The artistic abilities of IT&E's marketing team have won the national recognition of the Competitive Carriers Association, an association for competitive wireless providers and stakeholders across the United States.

IT&E's print advertisement for the IT&E Song Challenge is the winner of the Print Advertising (Carrier) category of the CCA's Excellence In Marketing Awards.

"We're honored to be recognized by the Competitive Carriers Association for the great work our team does every day," said Jay Shedd, senior director of Sales, Marketing and Customer Service at IT&E. "This is a reflection of our mission to create marketing materials and messaging that connect with our community on every level."

IT&E graphic designer Ed Valencia. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Winners were selected by CCA members in recognition of bold new ideas and creative marketing campaigns in telecommunications. CCA members submitted their entries earlier this year, and the winners were announced online on April 1.

Artwork for the winning advertisement was created by IT&E graphic designer Ed Valencia, who worked under the leadership of Angela Rosario, director of Product and Marketing; the creative direction of Rubyjane Buhain-Redila, manager of Brand and PR; and with the support of the IT&E marketing team. The advertisement launched IT&E's invitation to musicians and residents of Guam and the CNMI to create a theme song for the company.

Displayed on the advertisement are the IT&E Song Challenge logo, also designed by Ed Valencia, and an empty stage highlighted with design elements that encourage musicians to imagine themselves as superstars. ***(PR)***

May 22 is application deadline for NMC's fall Nursing cohort

Those interested in becoming a part of the Northern Marianas College's fall 2020 Nursing Cohort have until Friday, May 22, 2020, to submit an application.

Application forms can be downloaded from www.marianas.edu. The selection of cohort participants will be completed before August 2020. Student selection will be based on the following criteria: cumulative GPA of 2.5 or higher; completion of all nursing and general education prerequisites with a grade of "C" or higher; the ability to understand, speak and write in English; and a passing score in the program's entrance exam.

Current students are advised to make an appointment with their nursing advisor via email as soon as possible to discuss prerequisites and transcripts in order to determine current standing and progress toward meeting eligibility requirements.

For more information, contact the NMC Nursing Department via email at andrew.mendiola@marianas.edu or rosa.aldan@marianas.edu. ***(PR)***

Opinion

Hafa Adai
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EDITORIAL

COVID-19 enters the White House

The White House knows what it takes to limit the spread of COVID-19. That became obvious when the virus that has swept the globe began infecting staffers close to the president and vice president.

Quickly, the White House adopted the very measures that the administration, especially President Donald Trump, has not consistently endorsed. Masks are now worn by staffers operating in the West Wing. Those in proximity to leaders are tested daily, as are President Trump and Vice President Mike Pence. Those infected, who now include Trump's personal valet and Pence's chief spokeswoman, are quarantined. Dr. Anthony Fauci, the nation's most respected voice on the pandemic, opted for voluntary self-quarantine after contact tracing determined he had been exposed to someone with the virus.

Those are all entirely sensible steps recommended by infectious disease experts—and the White House itself in its April "Open Up America Again" plan.

The accepted, rational strategy of test, trace and isolate is one that should be the foundation of the nation's defense system against a virus that as yet still has no known treatment, cure or vaccine. It would be vastly more productive than the president frantically tweeting that states struggling to contain the spread be "liberated," or his questioning the value of widespread testing.

The testing that was so scarce for so long is now becoming pervasive enough that states can begin determining the number of symptomatic cases. But that's not enough to determine the true spread of this virus. For that you need broader testing of those who are asymptomatic. Tellingly, in its efforts to control its own spread, the White House is testing not just staffers who are symptomatic, but anyone close to top leaders. That is how you find carriers.

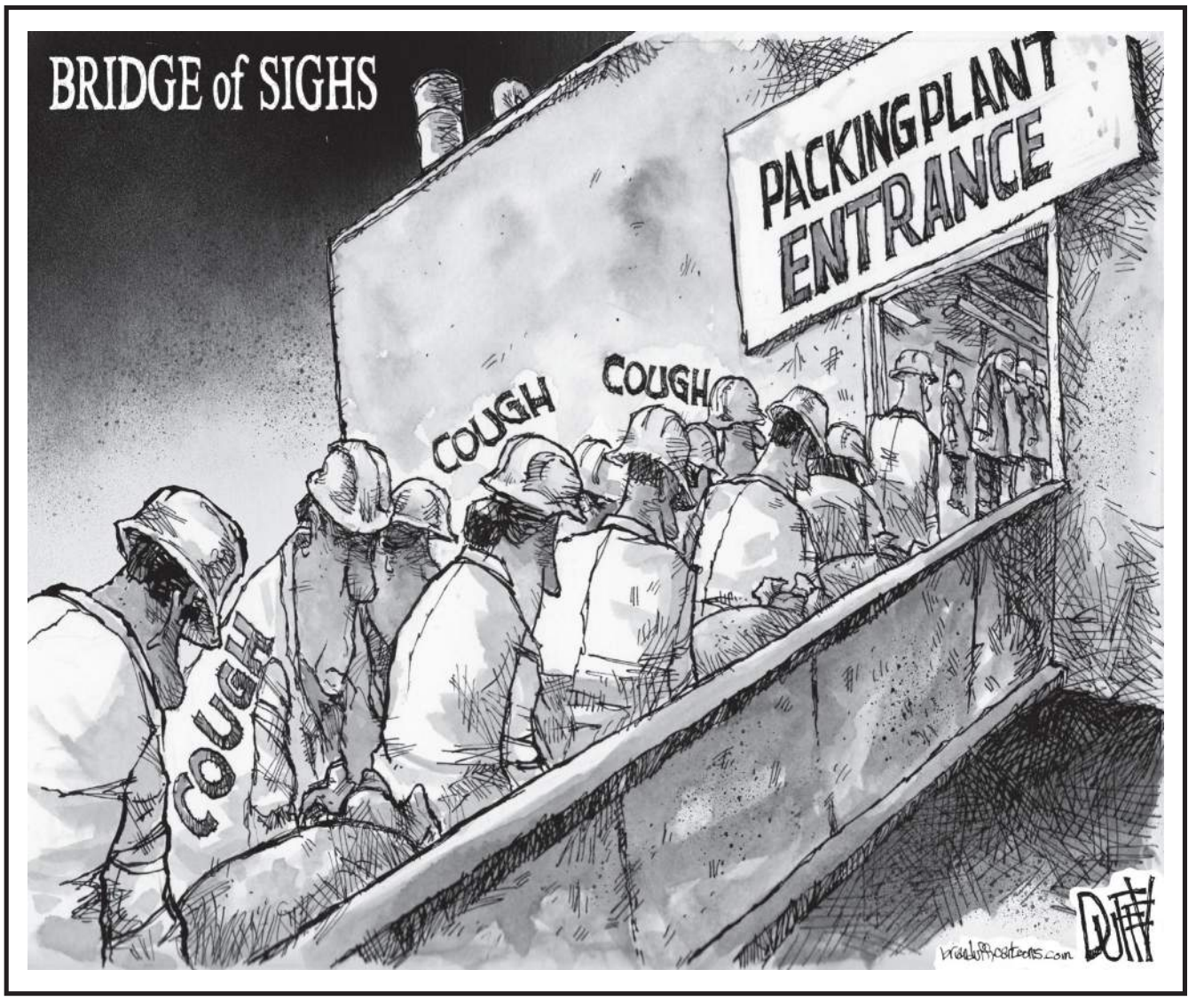
Health officials in Minnesota have said they remain unable to fully track disease spread because of the lack of widespread testing, although testing is increasing. It is an unnecessary burden they and other states have carried for months, due in large measure to a federal government that for too long failed to make widespread testing and tracing part of a national strategy. No one has a magic bullet when it comes to this new and confounding virus, whose dimensions are still being discovered. But we do have tried and true tools that are aided by leaders who publicly embrace the use of such measures, without partisan division.

Pence, the head of the White House coronavirus task force, has declined to isolate himself even after knowing he was exposed to the virus by his press secretary, Katie Miller. Meanwhile, Fauci, along with Dr. Stephen Hahn, commissioner of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, and Dr. Robert Redfield, director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, all voluntarily self-quarantined after contact with those who tested positive.

Dispelling fear in a pandemic is no small task. It is not accomplished by rhetorical commands to simply stop being afraid. Nor is it accomplished by repeated boasts that the U.S. "leads the world in testing," when the reality is we lag in per capita testing behind far smaller countries.

We need a national strategy built around the same measures the White House knew to adopt when the safety of the nation's leaders mattered.

(c)2020 *Star Tribune* (Minneapolis)



5 things to have in your mental health toolkit

By DAWN MARGARET S. SABLAN
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

May is Mental Health Awareness Month and, with the coronavirus pandemic looming over us, it is more essential now than ever to pay attention to our mental health. Mental wellness is important and we hear so much about, but seeing a professional and asking for help is not really an easy step to take. Although it is recommended to seek professional help, when in crisis it is also healthy to pack tools to help you thrive or cope to practice mental wellness. Some tools we will be focusing on are 1) Owning your feelings, 2) Finding the positives, 3) Connecting with others, 4) Eliminating toxic influences, and 5) Creating healthy routines. These small changes are tools we can pack in our mental health toolkit to help us on days when we feel we are struggling.

1 **1. Owning Your Feelings:** This is number one for a reason. Acknowledging that your emotions are valid is important for mental wellness. Cry if you need to, scream, or just write it down. Do something that will tell your mind and body what you are feeling right now and that your feelings are valid. Remember, when you feel too overwhelmed when trying to understand your feelings, seek professional help. CHCCs Mental Health Support line during the coronavirus pandemic are 285-1856, 323-6560/6561 from Mondays to Fridays, 7:30am – 4:30pm. If you find yourself needing immediate attention, call 911 or the SAMHSA Distress helpline at 1-800-985-5990.

2 **2. Finding the Positives:** Being positive does not necessarily mean we have to constantly put on a happy face. It just means practicing gratitude. By being thankful for what we have, we focus on the positives instead of thinking about the negatives.

3 **3. Connecting with Others:** Did you know that feeling lonely can cause the same amount of damage as smoking 15—yes, FIFTEEN—cigarettes a day? Being lonely is more dangerous to our health than obesity; connecting with others is a surefire way of lessening the feeling of being lonely. The amazing thing about island culture is that no matter where we turn, there's always a friendly smile nearby. Stuck at home? Send a text, write a post, DM/PM, WhatsApp, or Facetime a friend instead. Reaching out is important, whether it is to someone you feel close to or a stranger.

4 **4. Eliminating Toxic Influences:** People or things that drain your energy are toxic influences. Toxic traits include manipulation, making you feel bad about yourself, being judgmental, being negative, passive aggression, self-centeredness, difficulty with anger management, and controlling. If you know anyone in your life that drains your energy with any of those traits, it is time to walk away from it. Cut off people who drain your energy by saying no, declining invitations to hang out, or simply blocking them from social media.

5 **5. Creating Healthy Routines:** Some basic healthy routines are incorporating a healthy diet, maintaining a sleep schedule that closely mimics your routine prior to the pandemic, and adding time to exercise. The important part of creating a routine is to ensure it works for you. If you are stuck and unsure what types of things you should include, look up some stuff but cater it to you. Plan for days that are unexpected so your routine will not change dramatically. And treat yourself when you complete a week. Small victories will help you keep your routines. And remember, on average it takes about 66 days for our daily routines or behaviors to become habits. So if you started since the pandemic began, you are well on your way to making a habit of your routines.

These tools are just five out of many activities you can do to help improve your mental health. If none of these tools help, please seek out professional help. If you feel like you are struggling with your mental health, visit mhascreening.org to check your symptoms. This is a free, confidential, and anonymous screening service. After receiving your results, you will be given information about your symptoms and resources to feel better. To get further evaluations, seek professional help by calling CHCC Family Care Clinic at (670) 234-8950. For more information about Mental health Awareness Month, visit https://www.mhanational.org/.

If you feel that you or someone you know has been discriminated in any areas such as employment, education, or health services because of mental illness, contact the PAIMI program at NMPASI at (670) 235-7273. Visit us on the web at www.nmpasi.org, www.facebook.com/NMPASI, and follow us on Instagram @nmpasi670.

Dawn Margaret S. Sablan is a projects specialist at the Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems Inc.

Landownership

A major provision of the Covenant Agreement is that landownership is limited to the indigenous Chamorros and Carolinians.

However, the U.S. Supreme Court recently ruled that landownership in Guam isn't based on ethnicity but citizenship. In other words, being Chamorro isn't a ticket to limiting landownership to locals.

Did the new ruling nullify the land alienation provision under the agreement? It's a good issue for further research and meaningful discussion.

Every citizen is guaranteed the "right to own property…" found even in the preamble of our national constitution. We have to come to terms with a citizen's rights. It can't rest in the view that our rights to landownership is solely reserved for the indigenous people. This changed in 1978 when we came under the full awning and roof of the Stars and Stripes Forever!

As much as we may disagree it is the new reality we must learn to contend with down the stretch. It would seem to me reasonable to assume that the land alienation provision is history.

History

The genesis of this constitutional provision emerged in 1972 when a lot of wealthy businessmen from without could easily swallow local land. It coincided with the local economy being at its lowest then. Many would have been landless if it were allowed 47 years ago.

Moreover, family land is small, so why open the door for its sale and permanent loss? You may collect some $30K for your land but then you may even end up renting an apartment built on the very land you sold, *sayu*? The new owner wins twice while you bite your filthy nails while pondering the origin of that strange odor coming from downstairs.

The customary form of landownership limiting land to Chamorus and Carolinians is substituted by citizenship. It's quite different now that we're under the Stars and Stripes Forever! Nothing is stronger than a citizen's rights whatever he or she may be. Donning ethnicity in landownership here is history!

New wear

The use of mask has become common wear where abnormal turned normal. Either you wear it or chance contracting the deadly coronavirus. Not the time to ignore deadly pathogens!

Interesting the similarity of the fatal viral infection with the biblical plague. It has landed in the entire global community, sparing no one with its lethal tentacles. This prompted President Trump to declare a national pandemic to deal with the fatal virus.

Unfortunately, it is the elderly who are the most affected by the virus because of their reduced immunity. Make no mistake, though; it also affects babies.

State hospitals have been swamped with sick seniors the most vulnerable group. Hope the deadly virus subsides so we go past the fatal pandemic. It's a global challenge that took even the medical community by surprise.

Suetdu

Segun i gaseta, guaha 15-mit na empleau guine gumagana suetdun popble. I suetdu, segun inestablesen gobietnun federat i sigiente: dos na tautau gi familia - $17,240 gi sakan; tres, $21,720; kuattru, $26,200; etc. Un` asuntu na kulan mansilensiu I Boysis hegsu` I Deni`.

Taya` ta huhuñgug planu para uma-adelanta suetdun familia pot inipus guaguan attikulun nesessidat siha guine. Mauleg ta ketuñgu` haf` planun niha. Dañkulu na sapet mafafana` ni manadan familia, diariamente.

Propiu i tiempu na u guaha maseha haf` na ayudu pot inipus chatsaga kinalamten halum guma` familia siha gi katkuet petlas.

Fondu

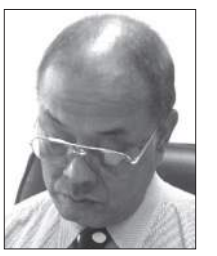
Guaha kase 38 na estadu hokog fondun niha ya ma-e`eñgulu` si Presidente Trump pot ayudu. Dañkulu na fondu ha nesessita ya makat i para otru estadu siha para umasakrifisia nesessidat niha pot diskuidun otru. Gaige giya siha i propiu ineppe yan disision.

I fondun estadu mafattu ginen kontribusion tax ni inapasen empleau siha gi todu atmos banda. Este na asuntu `nai anog kau homlu` kinalamten ekonomian i tanu` `nai bula salape` yan cho`chu`. Puede felis hinanau-ta gi halum makat na karera mona. Mientras sige hulu` gaston obligtasion ti umafagcha` yan menus manera `nai siña ta tagam gastun gobietnamentu.

Kase propiu i tiempu `nai debi ta atan kritikatmiente haf` fuetsan fondo-ta para mona. Puede ti presisu na ta sakrifisia edukasion famaguon-ta yan hinemlu` tautau-ta siha. Dipotsihe ha` na asuntu guaha `nai sosopbla `sino finatoigue ha`ilas!

Mauleg sa` guaha ayudun food stamps. Hu hassu `nai taya` este na ayudu gi tautau-ta siha antes. `Nai manhoben ham puru kontra uttimu sakrifisiu para bai`n seda` kinanu` mame. Guaha `nai un` chage fumana` tinaya`? Un` estau `nai ni pugas taya` para sentadan familia? Malofanyu` guine na kañada mina` hu komprende haf` fina`pus popble.

Gi todu hu tuñgu` lokue` na gaige i Saina `nai halili`e pinadesen unu yan todu. `An mangagau hau gi hilu` hinimiddi siempre un` inayuda. Ni guiya tiyaña lumi`e famaguoña man-mamadese. Lau sugu` manbisita puede mas felis ha`animu!



By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the* Saipan Tribune.

Employment opportunities, not unemployment incentives

With more than 1 in 5 Americans filing for unemployment benefits over the past eight weeks, policymakers' top priority is clear: restoring conditions that allow workers to resume their previous jobs or find new ones.

Federal assistance can help bridge a temporary gap in employment and incomes, but the only long-term solution is to let people get back to work. After all, deficit-financed unemployment checks are no replacement for the valuable goods and services Americans produce.

The CARES Act's $600 per week in federal pandemic unemployment benefits is certainly generous. Too generous, in fact: It's caused an overwhelming majority of unemployed Americans to receive more from unemployment benefits as from their previous paychecks. In many cases, workers are receiving at least twice their usual paychecks.

These excessive benefits are no doubt welcome to the newly unemployed workers. But in an ironic twist, businesses have factored those benefits into their decisions to furlough or lay off workers instead of keeping them on the payrolls. And those benefits are making it harder for businesses to reopen or ramp back up after temporary shutdowns and slowdowns.

In essence, businesses—especially hard-hit ones such as restaurants, hotels and retailers—are having to compete with the federal government's generous unemployment benefits.

When you consider that someone is receiving $900 from unemployment insurance, it's not surprising that they might not want to go back to work. It's too soon to know how long unemployment will remain highly elevated, but one thing is for sure: extending already excessive unemployment benefits won't help. It will increase unemployment and reduce economic output.

According to a study by researchers at the New York Federal Reserve, the extension in unemployment benefit duration during the Great Recession resulted in a prolonged increase in unemployment, with 4.6 million more people unemployed in 2010 and 3.3 million more unemployed in 2011. And those consequences came with unemployment benefits averaging less than $400 per week as opposed to nearly $1,000 a week today.

It's one thing to provide short-term and targeted unemployment benefits during forced shutdowns, but providing a year's worth of unprecedented additional unemployment benefits—up to an extra $31,200 more per worker—would cripple small businesses as they try to get back on their feet.

It's also incredibly unfair, and wholly un-American, to pay unemployed workers more than the hardworking Americans who continue to work each day.

Tacking the cost of excessive unemployment benefits onto future taxpayers is not only unfair, but also perilous, considering America's already-unsustainable fiscal outlook. If unemployment averages 10%, these additional benefits could cost every household in America an extra $3,300 to $4,000 in taxes.

At the same time, it's neither fair nor helpful to tantalize unemployed workers with unemployment benefits equal to 150% or 200% of their usual earnings, because long-term unemployment leads to lower incomes and opportunities, as well as a decline in physical and mental health.

Policymakers should be focused on helping Americans get safely back to work. Humans are hard-wired to be productive. They will be far better off if policymakers focus on enabling work opportunities than on incentivizing unemployment.

By RACHEL GRESZLER
The Heritage Foundation

Rachel Greszler is a research fellow specializing in economics, budget and entitlements at The Heritage Foundation.

D.R.E.A.M.S.: Two appropriated poems

LITERARY NOOK

By JOEY 'PEPE BATBON' CONNOLLY
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Joey aka Pepe Batbon is a retired educator who taught in the CNMI, NOLA, and LVNV. He is a sonnet practitioner who enjoys stargazing.

The two following poems containing appropriations were intended for April National Poetry Month. Computer problems and CCLV library closures due to COVID-19 prevented me from reaching out last month.

The poems are a conscious homage to two very short poems by Richard Barnfield (1574-1627) and Austin Clarke (1896-1974). Both poems left me wanting to read more and know more about what was suggested.

I subsequently wrote more using them to make new poems. I start each line with the original line of the original poem then put a slash to indicate where my words continue the poem. You wind up reading three separate poems: the original, my poem line by line and the two together, which form a completely different poem. Lines 9 through 14 in Counting Sheep - A Shepherds Lament are my own. They make the poem a complete 14 line sonnet.

So there are six poems here. Count your blessings instead of sheep before sleep.

My Flocks Feed Not, 8 lines by Richard Barnfield (1574-1627)

Counting Sheep A Shepherd's Lament, by Joey Connolly

My flocks feed not/A new ram in the field
My ewes breed not/The ram runs ewes ragged
My rams speed not/They have their old favorites
All is amiss/Chaos by the creek
Love is dying/No sheep dogs for a week
Faith's defying/Her sister's eyes met mine
Heart's denying/More doe like than lamb
Cause of this/ An innocent kiss.

Yes I fell asleep counting my blessings
Am falling in love with you I'm confessing
I give your kisses and hugs a thumbs up
Out here in these pastures of plenty
You just turned eighteen and I twenty
I wake up and drink from your loving cup.

The Jest, 6 lines by Austin Clarke (1896-1974)
No Rest, by Joey Connolly

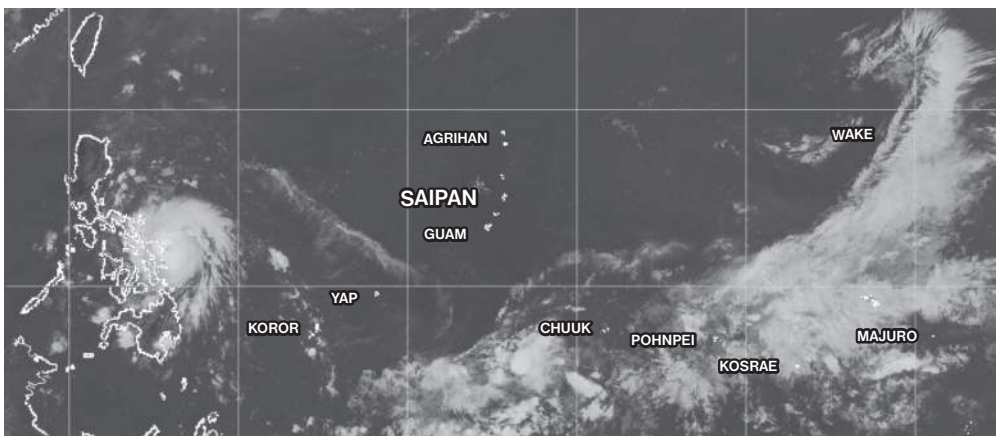
Half Spirit, the older/Me not spritely
I am, the bolder/Sleeping lightly
Yet add for jest/Needing more rest
That you may think/Into Morpheus sink
Not beat your breast/Initiate a fest
Invisible ink/Since my poems stink.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers. East winds 5 to 15 mph.	Partly sunny with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
90° 79°	90° 79°	90° 79°	90° 79°	90° 79°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:22 AM, THURSDAY, MAY 14, 2020

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A few showers continue to pass through the Marianas early this morning, but drier weather is seen to the east. Moderate trades and seas of 4 to 6 feet persist across the area.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

FLIGHT SCHEDULE

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				**GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN**			
UA117	9:15am	9:55am	1, 4, 6	UA174	7:30am	8:11am	1, 4, 6

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

MICRONESIA	▲ ▼ °F	
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	88° / 79°
Palau	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Yap	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	86° / 80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°

AROUND THE GLOBE	▲ ▼ °F	
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	64° / 54°
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	86° / 55°
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	88° / 81°
Honolulu	Showers	85° / 71°
London	Mostly Cloudy	63° / 45°
Los Angeles	Sunny	79° / 62°
Manila	Thunderstorms	90° / 81°
Melbourne	Sunny	63° / 45°
Miami	Thunderstorms	79° / 74°
New York	Thunderstorms	82° / 61°
Osaka	Rain	72° / 66°
Paris	Sunny	64° / 45°
Busan	Rain	64° / 61°
Rome	Mostly Cloudy	77° / 61°
Salem	Mostly Sunny	88° / 64°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	63° / 52°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	73° / 59°
Tokyo	Showers	70° / 63°
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	87° / 66°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:48 AM	6:38 PM
Saturday	5:48 AM	6:38 PM
Sunday	5:47 AM	6:38 PM
Monday	5:47 AM	6:39 PM
Tuesday	5:47 AM	6:39 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	12:59 AM	12:43 PM	-
Saturday	1:39 AM	1:32 PM	-
Sunday	2:17 AM	2:19 PM	-
Monday	2:52 AM	3:05 PM	-
Tuesday	3:27 AM	3:51 PM	-

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY	FEET	
3:17 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.86
9:27 AM	LOW TIDE	1.19
1:27 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.44
8:34 PM	LOW TIDE	0.40

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

GOVERNMENT RESOURCE LISTING PAGE 1 (MAY 11, 2020)

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
- ***Cashier & Customer Service***
  Monday - Friday
  8:00 AM - 1:00 PM
  Tel: (670) 664-4282
  Pay bills online at www.cucgov.org or via phone by calling toll free Tel: 1-(855)-729-2282

CNMI State Medicaid Agency
- ***Eligibility Office & Accounting / Claims***
  Monday - Friday
  7:30 AM - 4:30 PM
  Tel: (670) 664-4880/4882
  Still accepting applications and supporting documents via drop-box at Medicaid Office. Medicaid application & renewal/ redetermination forms must be original. Applications/forms available for pick up next to the drop-box or online at: www.medicaid.cnmi.mp

Department of Labor
- ***Assistance with Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) and the Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC) programs call:***
  Monday - Friday
  8:00 AM - 12:00 PM
  Tel: (670) 670-989-9090 / 9084 / 9081 / 9089 / 9083 / 9080
  Email: info@puamarianas.com
  Website: marianaslabor.net

Office of Vocational Rehabilitation
- *Available via phone or email only on Mondays, Wednesdays, & Fridays from*
  9:00 AM - 1:00 PM
  Tel: (670) 322-6537/38
  Email: maryann@ovrgov.net

Department of Public Works
- ***Administrative Services Division***
  Monday - Thursday
  7:30 AM - 11:30 AM
  Tel: (670) 235-9570 / 5818
- ***Building Safety Code Division***
  Monday - Thursday
  7:30 AM - 11:30 AM
  Tel: (670) 234-2726 / 2296
- ***Energy Division***
  Monday - Thursday
  7:30 AM - 11:30 AM
  Tel: (670) 664-4480 / 4481
- ***Technical Services Division***
  Monday - Thursday
  7:30 AM - 11:30 AM
  Tel: (670) 234-9828 / 9838
- ***Roads and Grounds Division***
  Monday - Thursday
  7:30 AM - 11:30 AM
  Tel: (670) 322-9498
- ***Solid Waste Management Division***
  - ***Lower Base Transfer Station & Marpi Landfill***
    Open all week except Wednesday
    7:30 AM - 1:00 PM
    Tel: (670) 322-2745

Dept. of Land and Natural Resources
- ***Division of Land Registration***
  Monday - Thursday
  8:30 AM - 12:00 PM
  Tel: (670) 322-9987
- ***Division of Agriculture***
  Monday - Thursday
  8:30 AM - 12:00 PM
  Tel: (670) 256-3320
- ***Division of Fish & Wildlife***
  Monday - Thursday
  8:30 AM - 12:00 PM
  Tel: (670) 664-6000

SOCIAL DISTANCING TO BE IMPLEMENTED AT ALL OFFICES

GOVERNOR'S COVID-19 TASK FORCE HOTLINE TEL: (670) 287-0046

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COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

GOVERNMENT RESOURCE LISTING PAGE 2 (MAY 11, 2020)

Department of Finance
- ***Division of Revenue & Taxation***
  Monday - Friday
  7:30 AM - 4:00 PM
  Tel: (670) 664-1000
- ***ALL OTHER DIVISIONS (Except Customs)***
  Monday - Thursday
  7:30 AM - 4:00 PM

- ***Division of Customs Services***
  - ***Airport:*** OPEN DAILY
    8:00 AM - 5:00 PM
  - ***Seaport:*** Monday - Friday
    8:00 AM - 5:00 PM
  - ***Chalan Kanoa Post Office:***
    Monday - Friday 7:30 AM - 4:30 PM
    Saturday 7:30 AM - 11:30 AM

Department of Public Lands
- Cashier Window
  Monday - Thursday
  9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
  Tel: (670) 234-3751/52/53/54
  For Appointments Call (670) 234-3751 or email dpl@dpl.gov.

Saipan Zoning Office
- *Available via phone only*
  Monday - Thursday
  7:30 AM - 11:30 AM
  Tel: (670) 234-9661/2/3
  Email: yubert.alepuyo@zoning.gov.mp

Office of the Attorney General
- ***Civil & Criminal Divisions***
  Monday - Friday
  8:00 AM - 12:00 PM
  Tel: (670) 237-7500 / 7600

Department of Public Safety
- ***Bureau of Motor Vehicle (BMV)***
  - ***Document Drop-Off For Vehicle / Watercraft Registration Renewal***
    Monday - Thursday
    9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
    Tel: (670) 664-9068
  - ***Document Drop-Off / Pick-up Drivers License***
    Monday - Thursday
    9:00 AM - 2:00 PM
    Tel: (670) 664-9066
- ***Firearms and Records***
  Monday - Thursday
  9:00 AM - 3:00 PM (For Walk-Ins)
  Tel: (670) 664-9072
- ***Highway Safety Office***
  Monday - Thursday
  9:00 AM - 3:00 PM
  Tel: (670) 664-9121 / 9125 / 9131

Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services
- ***Fire Enforcement Office***
  Monday - Thursday
  7:30 AM - 4:00 PM
  Tel: (670) 664-9178

Commonwealth Bureau of Military Affairs
- Monday – Friday
  7:30 AM – 4:30 PM
  Tel: (670) 488-0220 / 0440
  Email: 0550glenna.reyes@gov.mp

Office of the Public Defender
- Monday - Friday
  9:00 AM - 3:30 PM
  Tel: (670) 234-6503

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Business

Chow Time *is back!*

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Chow Time is open once again and serving well-loved dishes that will surely satisfy what your taste buds have been craving for. Going on their fifth year in 2020, they serve classic Filipino cuisine from appetizers, main dishes, to dessert, and in some occasions serve local cuisine and other Asian dishes.

According to manager Anna Liza Guancia they temporarily closed last March 28 for everyone's safety. "We started accepting orders for pick-up and deliveries because there is a demand from our loyal customers. When the entire staff came up negative on the COVID-19 test and after sanitizing our entire facility, we decided to open the store again last May 4," she said.

Guancia added that it's not easy convincing customers to fall in love with your product and service. "Quality of your food items and services and how you manage your customers' expectations plays a big role to be successful in the food business. It's how you let them know that you care. Every customer has a different need but we always try to meet them. We want our customers to be satisfied once they step out of our store."

Chow Time currently serves food combos for lunch and dinner and every rice meal order comes with a free drink. " One dish choice is only $4.50 and two dish choice is only $6.50, inclusive of rice. Once or twice a week, we announce a 50% off on selected food items 50 minutes before closing. We usually announce this kind of offer a day before the date of the promotion," Guancia said.

"Aside from the food and service that we offer, I believe establishing a positive work environment, lots of prayer, and a gazillion of patience will be your reliable sources of strength… just like any other business, we have experienced losses but those help us get through and that is the secret of our staying power," Guancia added.

Chow Time, located along Middle Road in Garapan, is open from Monday to Sunday, 6am-6pm. For more information, call (670) 989-4247 and (670) 233-8463 or visit their Facebook page: ChowTime4life.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The classic lumpiang shanghai is always served crispy and takes you back to mother's home cooking.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Beat the Saipan summer heat with their special halo-halo served anytime daily.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Chow Time located on Middle Road in Garapan is everyone's go-to place for hearty Filipino dishes.

Powell warns of a possible sustained recession from pandemic

WASHINGTON (AP)—Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell warned Wednesday of the threat of a prolonged recession resulting from the viral outbreak and urged Congress and the White House to act further to prevent long-lasting economic damage.

The Fed and Congress have taken far-reaching steps to try to counter what is likely to be a severe downturn resulting from the widespread shutdown of the U.S. economy. But Powell cautioned that numerous bankruptcies among small businesses and extended unemployment for many people remain a serious risk.

"We ought to do what we can to avoid these outcomes," Powell said.

Additional rescue aid from government spending or tax policies, though costly, would be "worth it if it helps avoid long-term economic damage and leaves us with a stronger recovery," he said.

Powell spoke a day after House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, a California Democrat, proposed a $3 trillion aid package that would direct money to state and local governments, households, and health-care workers. This money would come on top of roughly $3 trillion in earlier financial assistance that the government has provided. The Fed itself has also intervened by slashing interest rates to near zero and creating numerous emergency lending programs.

Yet Trump administration officials have said they want to first see how previous aid packages affect the economy. And Republican leaders in Congress have expressed skepticism about allowing significant more spending right now. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, a Kentucky Republican, said there is no "urgency" to act.

Powell, though, made clear his concern that a recession may last long enough to cause extensive damage to the economy and make a recovery weaker and slower. In such a scenario, unemployed workers would lose skills and their connections in the job market, making it harder for them to find new employment. And with many small businesses bankrupt, fewer companies would be available to hire the jobless.

"Deeper and longer recessions can leave behind lasting damage to the productive capacity of the economy," the chairman warned in his prepared remarks before holding an online discussion with the Peterson Institute for International Economics. "Avoidable household and business insolvencies can weigh on growth for years to come."

Why open a store? Chinese merchants go livestreaming instead

HONG KONG (AP)—At the height of China's coronavirus outbreak, the skincare-products maker Forest Cabin closed more than half of its 300 stores across the nation as shoppers stayed home. With sales plunging, founder Sun Laichun decided it was time to reach his customers more directly.

"We knew it was time for us to focus on an online strategy to survive," Sun said. But the company didn't launch an online ad blitz or announce big giveaways. Instead, it trained hundreds of its salespeople to begin hosting live video streams where viewers could get skincare tips and buy products without ever cutting away from the online patter. Within just a month, Sun said, Forest Cabin's February sales were up by 20% compared to a year earlier, despite a plunge in store sales.

These days, shoppers are making their way back to once deserted malls and shops as China emerges from its long winter of coronavirus shutdowns. But so many of the region's retailers ended up embracing livestreaming that they've kicked off a new boom in Chinese "shoppertainment" that lets retailers interact with distant customers in real time.

Some of China's largest e-commerce companies are betting big on livestreaming. Alibaba's Taobao Live platform saw more than a sevenfold increase in first-time business customers in February, while Pinduoduo's livestreaming sessions grew fivefold from February to March. Overall, livestreaming e-commerce revenue will likely double this year to 961 billion yuan ($136 billion), according to Chinese market intelligence firm iiMedia Research.

Livestreaming has also created a profitable new niche for existing livestream stars who are now reaping hefty commissions as their shows draw millions of viewers. The trend might even suggest alternatives for battered retailers in the U.S. and Europe as those regions cope with stay-at-home orders and customers remain wary of crowds.

Commercial Chinese livestreaming goes well beyond the American formula pioneered by the Home Shopping Network and QVC, which play infomercials around the clock, said Michael Norris, research and strategy manager at the marketing firm AgencyChina.

STOCK PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
23,247.97	2,820.00	8,863.17
−516.81	−50.12	−139.38
2.17%	1.75%	1.55%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	1.5540	Hong Kong Dollar	7.7499	Russian Ruble	72.9415
British Pound	0.8191	Indian Rupee	74.8721	Singapore Dollar	1.4212
Canadian Dollar	1.4097	Japanese Yen	106.8100	South Korean Won	1201.74
Chinese Yuan	6.9862	Malaysian Ringgit	4.2885	Swiss Franc	0.9735
Euro	0.9252	New Zealand Dollar	1.6722	Taiwan Dollar	29.3827
		Philippine Peso	49.4260	Thailand Baht	32.1170

Nation

Obama emerges as central figure in 2020 presidential race

WASHINGTON (AP)—Nearly eight years after he was last on the ballot, Barack Obama is emerging as a central figure in the 2020 presidential election.

Democrats are eagerly embracing Obama as a political wingman for Joe Biden, who spent two terms by his side as vice president. Obama remains the party's most popular figure, particularly with black voters and younger Democrats, and Biden's presidential campaign is planning for him to have a highly visible role in the months to come.

For President Donald Trump, that means an opportunity to focus the spotlight on one of his favorite political foils. In recent days, Trump and his allies have aggressively pushed conspiracy theories about Obama designed to fire up the president's conservative base, taint Biden by association and distract from the glut of grim health and economic news from the coronavirus pandemic.

AP

In this Nov. 9, 2016, file photo, Vice President Joe Biden, left, looks upwards while listening to President Barack Obama speak in the Rose Garden of the White House in Washington.

"Partisans on both sides want to make this about Obama," said Ned Price, who served as spokesperson for Obama's White House National Security Council.

The renewed political focus on Obama sets the stage for an election about the nation's future that will also be about its past. As Biden looks to Obama for personal validation, he's also running to restore some of the former president's legacy, which has been systematically dismantled by Trump. The current president is running in part to finish that job.

Yet Trump's anti-Obama push also frequently takes on a darker, more conspiratorial tone that goes far beyond differences in health care policy and America's role in the world. His current focus is on the actions Obama, Biden and their national security advisers took in the closing days of their administration, as they viewed intelligence reports about Michael Flynn. Flynn had a short-lived stint as Trump's national security adviser before being fired for lying to Vice President Mike Pence about his interactions with Russia's ambassador to the U.S.

Trump's own administration acknowledged on Wednesday that Obama advisers followed proper procedures in privately "unmasking" Flynn's name, which was redacted in the intelligence reports for privacy reasons. Flynn ultimately pleaded guilty to lying to the FBI, though Trump's Justice Department moved last week to drop the case against him.

Despite there being no evidence of wrongdoing by Obama, Biden or other administration officials, Trump is eagerly pushing the notion of an unspecified crime against the former president, branding it "Obamagate." He's being backed up by Republican allies, including Iowa Sen. Chuck Grassley who took to the Senate floor this week to ask of the Flynn matter: "What did Obama and Biden know, and when did they know it?"

Trump's zeal has sparked fears among some former Obama and Biden advisers about how far he may be willing to go in using the levers of government to push his case against them in an election year. The Justice Department is conducting an investigation into the origins of the Russia probe that ensnared Flynn and other Trump associates.

Trump's renewed focus on Obama comes as Republicans grow increasingly anxious that the rising coronavirus death toll and cratering economy will damage the president's reelection prospects in November. More than 84,000 Americans have died from the virus, and more than 30 million have claimed unemployment.

Biden's campaign drew a direct connection between the president's attacks on Obama and the twin crises battering his administration.

"It's no surprise that the president is erratically lashing out at President Obama, desperate to distract from his own failures as commander in chief that have cost thousands of Americans their lives during this crisis," said TJ Ducklo, a Biden campaign spokesman.

Trump's emphasis on Obama also comes as the former president begins to emerge from a three-year period of political restraint as he prepares to embrace his role as leading surrogate for Biden. Last week, Obama told a large gathering of alumni from his administration that DOJ's decision to drop the Flynn case put the "rule of law at risk." He also criticized the Trump White House's handling of the coronavirus pandemic.

911 call, text hint at confrontation days before Arbery shot

SAVANNAH, Ga. (AP)—Days before Ahmaud Arbery was pursued by two white men and fatally shot after being spotted inside a home under construction, neighbors—including one of the suspects—reported an earlier encounter with a person wandering through the open-framed structure.

Owner Larry English found nothing stolen from the site where he's building a home in the Satilla Shores subdivision where 25-year-old Arbery was slain Feb. 23, English's attorney said Wednesday. But she said there had been "four or five" instances in which unauthorized people entered the property before Arbery was shot.

"Nothing was ever taken from the English property," attorney J. Elizabeth Graddy said in a statement Wednesday. She added that "Mr. English is deeply distressed by Mr. Arbery's death."

Graddy also shared security camera video from the home site taken Feb. 11, less than two weeks before the shooting, that briefly shows a man walking inside the structure. She said English has been unable to find security video from the prior instances.

Attorneys for Arbery's family have said a man caught on security video from English's home immediately before the shooting Feb. 23 was Arbery and the footage shows he committed no crime. It's unknown whether it's also Arbery in the newly released video taken 11 days earlier.

Travis McMichael, one of the two men charged in Arbery's death, called 911 on Feb. 11 to report what he considered to be a suspicious man at the construction site, according to audio obtained by The Atlanta Journal-Constitution.

"I was leaving the neighborhood and I just caught a guy running into a house being built," McMichael said during the 911 call, according to the newspaper. "When I turned around, he took off running into the house."

"We've been having a lot of burglaries and break-ins around here lately," McMichael told the operator.

English lives far from where the home is being built just outside the port city of Brunswick, 70 miles (110 kilometers) south of Savannah. Graddy said the night of Feb. 11 he received an alert when motion inside the construction site triggered a security camera. English sent a text message to a neighbor, Diego Perez, asking him to check on the house.

According to Graddy, the neighbor soon sent English a text: "The police showed up and we all searched for a good while. I think he got spooked and ran after Travis confronted him. Travis says the guy ran into the house. Let me know if he shows up or if they find him."

Virus restrictions fuel anti-government 'boogaloo' movement

SILVER SPRING, Md. (AP)—They carry high-powered rifles and wear tactical gear, but their Hawaiian shirts and leis are what stand out in the crowds that have formed at state capital buildings to protest COVID-19 lockdown orders. The signature look for the "boogaloo" anti-government movement is designed to get attention.

The loose movement, which uses an '80s movie sequel as a code word for a second civil war, is among the extremists using the armed protests against stay-at-home orders as a platform. Like other movements that once largely inhabited corners of the internet, it has seized on the social unrest and economic calamity caused by the pandemic to publicize its violent messages.

In April, armed demonstrators passed out "Liberty or Boogaloo" fliers at a statehouse protest in Concord, New Hampshire. A leader of the Three Percenters militia movement who organized a rally in Olympia, Washington, last month encouraged rally participants to wear Hawaiian shirts, according to the Anti-Defamation League. On Saturday, a demonstration in Raleigh, North Carolina, promoted by a Facebook group called "Blue Igloo"—a derivation of the term—led to a police investigation of a confrontation between an armed protester and a couple pushing a stroller.

Another anti-lockdown rally is planned for Thursday at the state Capitol in Lansing, Michigan, site of an angry protest last month that included armed members of the Michigan Liberty Militia. Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, a Democrat, has been the target of violent threats on Facebook forums, including a private one called "The Rhett E. Boogie Group."

One user said Whitmer should be "guillotined" after another suggested the governor should be hanged from a noose, according to a screenshot captured by the Tech Transparency Project research initiative.

The coronavirus pandemic has become a catalyst for the "boogaloo" movement because the stay-at-home orders have "put a stressor on a lot of very unhappy people," said J.J. MacNab, a fellow at George Washington University's Program on Extremism. MacNab said their rhetoric goes beyond discussions about fighting virus restrictions—which many protesters brand as "tyranny"—to talking about killing FBI agents or police officers "to get the war going."

"They are far more graphic and far more specific in their threats than I've seen in a long time," she said.

Asia

Mass testing to begin in Wuhan amid fears of virus comeback

BEIJING (AP)—At least one community in the Chinese city of Wuhan was to begin testing residents for the new coronavirus Thursday after officials were given 10 days to test everyone in the city where the pandemic began, Chinese media reports said.

About 1,000 residents of a compound in Qiaokou district were to be tested in groups, according to a website of Hubei TV, the official provincial broadcaster.

No official announcement has been made, but district officials have confirmed receiving mass testing orders from the city's coronavirus task force, the reports said. It remained unclear if everyone in the city of 11 million people would actually be tested and how such a monumental campaign would happen.

The short order came after the discovery last weekend of a cluster of six infected people at a residential compound in the city, the first new cases in more than a month. China has moved quickly to snuff out new outbreaks wherever they pop up, even as it relaxes restrictions on the movement of people and reopens public attractions to limited numbers of visitors.

Jilin province, which borders North Korea in China's northeast, has suspended all public transport and imposed other restrictions as it battles a fresh outbreak. In neighboring Heilongjiang province, which dealt with its own outbreak recently, the city of Harbin is quarantining anyone coming from Jilin for 14 days and banning them from hotels.

The sudden order appeared to confuse local officials. A man who answered the mayor's hotline in Wuhan said that districts have 10 days to arrange the testing in their respective jurisdictions. But a woman who answered later Wednesday said the tests must be done in the next 10 days.

A major state-owned news website, Jiemian, said it had obtained an implementation plan for the city's Wuchang district that said all residents should be tested by May 20.

Wuhan was the area hit hardest by the coronavirus in China. Of the 4,633 reported deaths nationwide, 4,512 were in Hubei province, including 3,869 in Wuhan, the provincial capital.

China imposed a lengthy lockdown on most of Hubei in late January to stem the spread of the virus. People were forbidden from entering or leaving the province, public transportation suspended and residents were mostly restricted to their homes.

The lockdown was lifted outside of Wuhan after two months, and in Wuhan itself on April 8, after 2 1/2 months.

The new cases appear to have shocked city officials into action. They dismissed the Communist Party secretary of the neighborhood where the cluster was found for poor management of the residential community, the official Xinhua News Agency said.

The order said the testing should focus on the elderly, densely populated areas and those with mobile populations, according to the media reports. It wasn't clear if that meant only some people would be tested or if they would be prioritized.

One expert at Wuhan University told the Global Times newspaper that 3 million to 5 million residents have already been tested, which could leave 6 to 8 million others for a citywide test.

In Beijing, a shorter-than-usual ban on drone use in the Chinese capital is being interpreted as a signal that China will curtail its major political meeting of the year because of continuing concern about the outbreak.

Police said Wednesday that the use of drones, balloons, gliders and other low-flying objects will be banned for nine days, from May 20 to May 28. Such bans are common during major events.

The National People's Congress usually happens over two weeks in March but was postponed this year because of the coronavirus outbreak. It is scheduled to start on May 22, so it may last just one week.

Some participants in a recent preparatory meeting joined by video conference, sparking speculation that some of the 3,000 delegates may do so at the Congress itself.

AP

In this photo taken Wednesday, April 1, 2020, residents walk past a sealed off neighborhood in Wuhan, central China's Hubei province.

Strains in hard-hit Mumbai complicate India's virus recovery

NEW DELHI (AP)—As Indians await details of a huge coronavirus relief package Prime Minister Narendra Modi has announced to jumpstart the economy, the virus outbreak in the financial capital of Mumbai and elsewhere in Maharashtra state is starting to overwhelm hospitals and slums, complicating any economic recovery plan.

About a third of India's 71,865 confirmed virus cases, and nearly 40% of its 2,415 deaths, have been reported in Maharashtra, the coastal state in the center of the country that is home to Bollywood, a huge agriculture industry and India's largest stock market. The Sensex has sunk about 25% from its year-to-date high in January.

Health experts have praised Modi's government for enforcing a stringent weeks-long lockdown that has helped the nation of 1.3 billion so far avoid the kind of catastrophic rates of illness and death that have beset the United States, Britain and elsewhere. But as India's lockdown restrictions are eased, whether the country can steer its economy back on track will largely depend on how Maharashtra rebounds, experts say.

"It's a huge impact," Gurcharan Das, the former head of Procter & Gamble in India, said of the state. "I think the default position should be to open, and you only lock down by exception, because eventually I fear that the cost of the lockdown will be far greater in lives even than the disease."

India's lockdown, imposed March 25, is set to at least partially end May 18. Some restrictions on manufacturing, agriculture and self-employment were lifted May 4 to ease the burden on the poor and informal sector workers who comprise the majority of India's workforce.

Indian Railways also partially reopened to run special trains carrying migrant workers stranded in the lockdown who fled India's big cities, including Mumbai, for their village homes. At least some of the passengers carried the coronavirus with them, infection spikes in the states of Bihar and Orisha corresponding with their arrival show.

In an address Tuesday night, Modi said the government would spend more than $260 billion to revive the economy. The government described some details of the package, including income tax cuts, liquidity injections for cash-strapped companies and government-backed bank loans. It also said it would bar foreign companies from competing in bidding for government contracts of up to $26 million, in a nod to the self-reliance and protectionist policies outlined in Modi's address.

Ritu Dewan, vice president of the New Delhi-based Indian Society of Labor Economics, said the government should do more to address the needs of India's poor.

"People are out of money, what about them? Where will they go? People need cash at this moment," she said.

Places like Maharashta are showing signs of distress.

The state government has ordered all private hospital doctors to spent at least 15 days treating COVID-19 patients at public hospitals, where infection rates among health care workers are growing. The government also released half of its inmate population amid outbreaks in prisons.

Strong typhoon roars toward pandemic-hit PH

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A strong typhoon roared toward the eastern Philippines on Thursday as authorities work to evacuate tens of thousands of people while avoiding overcrowding in shelters that could spread the coronavirus.

The first typhoon to hit the country this year is expected to slam ashore later Thursday, weather agency administrator Vicente Malano said.

The Philippines was bracing for the typhoon while trying to fight COVID-19 outbreaks largely by locking Filipinos in their homes and prohibiting gatherings that can set off infections. More than 11,600 infections, including 772 deaths, have been reported in the country.

Typhoon Vongfong was last spotted 230 kilometers (143 miles) off Northern Samar province with maximum sustained winds of 150 kilometers per hour (93 miles per hour) and gusts of up to 185 kph (115 mph).

Overcrowding in emergency shelters is a common scene in the archipelago hit by about 20 typhoons and storms annually and regularly experiencing volcanic eruptions and earthquakes.

Many officials faced a difficult dilemma on how to shield villagers from the double threats.

"This is very complicated," Mayor Benjamin Ver of a town in the typhoon's path told The Associated Press by telephone.

Far-flung Jipapad is prone to landslides and flooding. The town in Eastern Samar province is surrounded by mountains and planked by two rivers that often swell in storms. The only evacuation centers for its 8,000 villagers are a gymnasium and the town hall where residents could be sheltered from the typhoon. Ver, who also is the town's only doctor, said he has secured enough face masks to protect his villagers from the virus in the town hall when the typhoon hits.

Observing social distancing "is almost impossible" if all the villagers are cramped in the town hall, but Ver said he would see what else can be done.

Jipapad and the whole of Eastern Samar, a province of half a million people, fortunately remain free of coronavirus infections unlike neighboring regions, provincial Gov. Ben Evardone said. All emergency shelters have been turned into quarantine facilities with medical equipment in case of outbreaks but may have to be rearranged back into evacuation centers if large numbers of people need shelter, Evardone told The AP.

Message of Appreciation

†Lillian Santos Tenorio

We, the family of **†Lillian Santos Tenorio**, give our praise to God and rejoice that our loved one now rests in the love and peace of His embrace.

Words cannot adequately express our profound gratitude and sincere appreciation to all our friends and family for all the kind words of comfort and for taking the time to join us in the Prayer Service in honor of our beloved sister/aunt, **†Lillian Santos Tenorio.** Your prayers, love, support and condolences have helped us tremendously during this sudden and difficult time, giving us courage to stay strong in faith, and to accept the will of God no matter how painful and hard. Know that you are treasured in our hearts and will be remembered in our thoughts and prayers.

Thank you & Dangkulo na si Yu'us Ma'ase

The Family

World

As Europe reopens, key virus protections are still elusive

ROME (AP)—Italy's virus reopening was supposed to be accompanied by a series of measures to limit infections in the one-time epicenter of Europe's pandemic: the distribution of millions of inexpensive surgical masks to pharmacies nationwide, a pilot project of 150,000 antibody tests and, eventually, the roll-out of a contact-tracing app.

None of these is in place as Italy experiments with its second week of loosening restrictions and looks ahead to Monday's reopening of shops and, in some regions, bars and restaurants.

Italy's commissioner for the emergency, Domenico Arcuri, went on the defensive Tuesday to respond to mounting criticism of his Phase II roll-out.

He insisted "Italians know well what to do" to protect themselves, even if they don't have the tests, masks, contact-tracing or other measures that public health authorities deemed necessary for Italy to reopen in safety.

"Sometimes I make mistakes for which I expect criticism and, if necessary, reprimand, from Italians," Arcuri said. But he directed the blame at others and repeated that he was working solely in the public's interest.

Italy is by no means alone in emerging from lockdown without all its infection-prevention pillars in place. And no country has had a blueprint for managing either the COVID-19 outbreak or the reopening phase.

But Italy's problems epitomize the challenges many countries face as they seek to balance economic and health care needs while reassuring terrified citizens with promises that perhaps were overly optimistic.

France's pledge to "protect, test and trace" all those who come into contact with a coronavirus patient was dealt a setback Monday when the constitutional court threw out part of its new virus law. The court objected to the contact-tracing language and ordered the government to take extreme care in protecting privacy.

The law, which took effect Tuesday, calls for teams of health care workers to trace the contacts of COVID-19 patients and share that data on a government server, with or without the patients' consent.

French President Emmanuel Macron has also repeatedly pledged that France would be able to test up to 700,000 people per week. The national health authority told The Associated Press on Tuesday that France was averaging around 200,000-270,000 tests per week.

Britain, which has Europe's highest official death toll at over 32,700, has ramped up its testing from 5,000 a day in March to close to 100,000 a day now. But it abandoned contact tracing after the virus' spread overwhelmed its capacity. A contact-tracing app is in trial stages and 18,000 people are being recruited to do the tracing legwork now.

In Gods Loving Care

†Faustino Mettao Olopai

"Tino/Tinong/Esbwuluyong"

Born to Life: October 12, 1944 – Born to Eternal Life: May 8, 2020

In his New Life he now joins his

Parents:	Simion I. and Josepha M. Olopai
Parents In-Law:	Joseph R. Bolger & Jean Bolger
Siblings & In-laws:	Sophia O. & Koro Towai
	Olympia S. & Simeon Saralu
	Visitacion T. Olopai
	Francisco M. & Martina R. Olopai

Memories of Tino will live in the hearts of

Wife:	Jean B. Olopai
Children:	Ronald B. Olopai
	Michele O. & Daniel T. Joab (Omari Joseph, Daniel Jayvon, & Theo Jace)
Siblings & In-laws:	Family of Sophia O. & Koro Towai
	Family of Olympia S. and Simeon Saralu
	Lino M. Olopai & †Visitacion T. Olopai & Family
	Family of Francisco M. & Martina R. Olopai
	Juan M. Olopai & Family
	Joseph & Patricia Bolger & Family
	Richard & Marylou Bolger & Family
	Kevin & Kathy Bolger & Family
	Ann & Jack Hallaren & Family
Special Friends:	Ceasar Catapang & Juliet Vargas

He is additionally survived by numerous cousins, nieces, nephews, and God-children

Daily Mass is being offered online at 7am and 5 pm. On Saturday, May 16, 2020 the remains of Tino will be escorted to his home in As Lito for viewing and prayer services. Rosary will be recited upon arrival at his home. Prayer services will be held at 11:00 AM followed by the internment services at Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.

In an effort to ensure our safety during this pandemic, we kindly request that masks are worn and that we all take precautionary measures as we gather to bid farewell to our beloved.

Ghilisow, Si Yu'us Ma'ase and Thank you for your thoughts & Prayers.

Off The Wall

Colombian company creates bed that can double as coffin

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP)—A Colombian advertising company is pitching a novel if morbid solution to shortages of hospital beds and coffins during the coronavirus pandemic: combine them.

ABC Displays has created a cardboard bed with metal railings that designers say can double as a casket if a patient dies.

Company manager Rodolfo Gómez said he was inspired to find a way to help after watching events unfold recently in nearby Ecuador.

Families in the coastal city of Guayaquil waited with dead loved ones in their homes for days last month as COVID-19 cases surged. Many could not find or were unable to afford a wood coffin, using donated cardboard ones instead.

"Poor families don't have a way of paying for a coffin," Gómez said.

Gómez said he plans to donate 10 of his new beds to Colombia's Amazonas department, where resources are in short supply. So far there is no indication whether the beds will be put to use and no orders have been placed.

Man who sought trial by combat now wants his ex-wife evaluated

HARLAN, Iowa (AP)—A Kansas man who sought legal permission in Iowa to engage in a sword fight with his ex-wife is not insane but merely angry over their child custody arrangement, according to a psychological evaluation.

David Ostrom, of Paola, Kansas, asked in a Jan. 3 court filing to be allowed to fight his former wife, Bridgette Ostrom, of Harlan, Iowa, and her attorney, Matthew Hudson, so that he can "rend their souls" from their bodies. The Ostroms have been embroiled in disputes over custody and visitation issues, and property tax payments.

An Iowa judge responded by temporarily suspending David Ostrom's child visitation and ordering the evaluation. It found he is not troubled, but has "adjustment disorder with mixed emotional features," Ostrom told the Des Moines Register.

"It essentially says I'm not crazy, I just don't like being denied access to my children," he said.

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Space agency: Human urine could help make concrete on moon

BERLIN (AP)—The European Space Agency said Friday that human urine could one day become a useful ingredient in making concrete to build on the moon. The agency said researchers in a recent study it sponsored found that urea, the main organic compound in urine, would make the mixture for a "lunar concrete" more malleable before it hardens into its sturdy final form. It noted that using only materials available on site for a moon base or other construction would reduce the need to launch supplies from Earth. The main ingredient in "lunar concrete" would be a powdery soil found on the moon's surface known as lunar regolith. ESA said urea, which can break hydrogen bonds and reduce the viscosity of fluid mixtures, would limit the amount of water necessary in the recipe. "Thanks to future lunar inhabitants, the 1.5 liters (3.2 pints) of liquid waste a person generates each day could become a promising by-product for space exploration," it said in a statement.

Peacock on the prowl falls for officer's decoy, not love

BOSTON (AP)—A Boston police officer used an electronic mating call Monday to help capture a peacock that had escaped from a nearby zoo. An officer lured the curious peacock that had escaped from Franklin Park Zoo into a fenced-in yard while playing a mating call on his cell phone, The Boston Globe reported. The officers on patrol in the Roxbury area were approached by a concerned citizen, who reported that the bird, named Snowbank, had escaped from the zoo, Boston police said in a statement. "Additional officers arrived at the scene and were met by an extremely large, slightly intimidating, and quite beautiful, male peacock," police said. One of the officers began to look up a peacock mating call on his cellphone. When he played it, the 6-year-old bird was lured into the secure area and remained there until Boston Animal Control and zoo officials arrived.

9-year-old boy in Tennessee catches 80-pound lake sturgeon

HENDERSONVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—A nine-year-old boy in Tennessee became the third child in his family to catch a monster fish, reeling in an 80-pound sturgeon that outweighed him by far.

Coye Price was eager to catch something big after his 11-year-old sister Caitlin hooked a 40-pound striper and his 8-year-old sister Farrah reeled in a 58-pound blue catfish a while back, the Tennessee Wildlife and Resource Agency said Tuesday in a Facebook post.

"Coye had been saying, 'Man, I don't have nothing on these girls, I've got to catch a big fish,'" Coye's father, Chris, told the Tennessean. "So not only did he catch a bigger fish than they had, but sturgeon are rare, which is the other cool part about it."

Coye, who weighs just 55-pounds, was targeting catfish in Old Hickory Lake before he hooked the sturgeon. It took him 15 minutes to get the fish in the boat, where they weighed it and took some pictures before returning it to the water, the Tennessean reported.

The endangered lake sturgeon are some of the largest and longest-living fish in Tennessee, the state's wildlife agency said. There have been efforts to restore the species, which can grow up to eight feet and live up to 150 years, after their population declined due to reasons including overfishing and habitat loss.

The agency said more than 220,000 lake sturgeon have been stocked into the Cumberland River and portions of the Tennessee River since 2000.

In Loving Memory of

†Herman Sablan Sablan

December 9, 1935 – May 9, 2020

In his new life, he now joins his:

Paternal Grandparents: †Joaquin/†Heromina Torres Sablan
Maternal Grandparents: †Jose Wilson Pangelinan/†Maria SN. Sablan
Parents: †Eulogio Torres Sablan & †Rosa San Nicolas Sablan
Wife: †Rita Diaz Sablan
Son-in-Law: †Benigno B. Camacho

His memories will forever live in the hearts of his:

Wife: Rita F. Sablan
Children:
Kevin Glenn F. Sablan
Kyllan Glenn F. Sablan
Nicolas D./Maggie S. Sablan *(Juanet & Nic)*
†Benigno B./**Norma S**. Camacho *(Stephanie/James & Rene)*
Kenneth D./Arlene Y. Sablan *(Walter/Rose [Ariana, Rainen, Jace, Amara], Kenneth Christopher)*
Ken C./**Elsa S**. Perez *(Zion/Miya, Camarin, Aaron & Isaiah)*
Andrew B./**Thelma S**. Barcinas *(Alexandria [Rosae & Asher] & Victoria)*
Velma D. Sablan
Roland D./Sally C. Sablan *(Alyssa & Amaya)*

Siblings/In-Laws:
Margarita S./Richard Dunn & Family
Rosalia S./Bill Owens & Family
Fermina S./Carlton Ihlan & Family
Miguel S./Emilia C. Sablan & Family
Eugenio S./Carmela Sablan & Family
Norbert S./Jean F. Sablan & Family

He is additionally survived by numerous cousins, nieces, nephews, grandnieces, grandnephews, godchildren, and other family and friends.

Funeral services will be held on Monday, May 18, 2020 at Borja Funeral Home. Public viewing will be from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. followed by a Prayer Service and Interment at the Tanapag Cemetery. For viewing and visitation, please observe physical distancing and wear facial mask. Visitations will be limited to 10 people at a time. Your cooperation and understanding are greatly appreciated.

Thank you – Si Yu'us Ma'asi'
Rita F. Sablan & Family

Science & Technology

New coronavirus test is imperfect step toward mass screening

WASHINGTON (AP)—A new type of coronavirus test offers a cheaper, quicker way to screen for infections, moving the U.S. toward the kind of mass screening that experts say is essential to returning millions of Americans to school and work.

But the first so-called antigen test—announced Saturday by the Food and Drug Administration—is not quite the kind sought by top government health officials. It is less accurate than the current gold standard for testing and can only be run on specialized equipment.

"It is too early to tell," said lab researcher Patricia Simner of Johns Hopkins University, assessing the test's impact. "It certainly has the potential to aid in more widespread testing."

Some questions and answers about the new test:

WHAT'S DIFFERENT ABOUT THIS TEST?

The test from Quidel Corp. screens for new infections but in a different way. It looks for protein traces of the virus—known as antigens. The same approach is used in rapid tests for flu, strep throat and other infections that are run at the hospital or doctor's office. They represent a trade-off, sacrificing some of the accuracy of more rigorous tests for quicker results at a lower cost.

"They allow you to dramatically expand testing and they're very cheap," said Dr. Scott Gottlieb, the former FDA commissioner, in an interview Sunday with CBS. But he acknowledged antigen testing's reduced accuracy: "They're going to miss some patients who have COVID."

Previously, the only way to diagnose active infections was a test that detects the genetic material of the virus. While highly accurate, most of those tests take hours to develop on machines mainly found at commercial labs, hospitals or universities. Abbott Laboratories makes a 15-minute version of the genetic test that runs on its portable machine, but it only does one sample at a time.

Registered nurse Stephanie Mundo conducts a COVID-19 test at the Abyssinian Baptist Church, Wednesday, May 13, 2020, in the Harlem neighborhood of New York. AP

TESTING IMPORTANT?

The U.S. is still struggling to increase testing to the levels that most public health experts say are essential. Harvard researchers have projected that the nation needs to be able to do 900,000 daily tests to be able to track new cases and contain new outbreaks as the country reopens. That's more than three times the country's current daily testing rate of about 275,000.

White House adviser Dr. Deborah Birx and other federal officials have said a "breakthrough" in antigen testing could open the way to daily testing before going to back to work or school.

The National Institutes of Health is pouring $1.5 billion into efforts to develop highly accurate, easy-to-use tests that could be performed without professional oversight or special equipment. While an important stepping stone, the Quidel test isn't there yet.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

The new test uses a nasal swab like other screening tests, and delivers results in about 15 minutes.

The sample is put in a tube with testing chemicals and then into a cassette that goes into the company's electronic reading device. There, it's exposed to a testing strip embedded with laboratory-made antibodies, the specific blood proteins made by the body's immune system when it detects an infection. If the antigens and antibodies interact, the test is positive.

HOW ACCURATE IS THE TEST?

The new test is expected to detect about 80% of active COVID-19 infections, according to the FDA. That accuracy rate is similar to other rapid antigen tests for seasonal flu.

"They are going to pick up fewer people that are infected," said Simner of Johns Hopkins. "So that's where you see a lot of skepticism around using antigen tests for the diagnosis of COVID-19."

For now, Simner and other experts say negative test results for people showing symptoms should be confirmed with the more accurate genetic test.

"But as you might imagine, that's not a perfect scenario because you have to do twice as many tests when the result isn't positive," said Dr. Robin Patel of the Mayo Clinic.

WHAT'S NEXT?

Many companies are working on versions that would be more accurate, easier to use and more suitable for mass screenings.

OraSure Technologies has a $710,000 federal contract to develop a saliva-based antigen test that could be performed at home. The company has antigen tests for other viruses—including HIV and Ebola—and those have accuracy rates of over 95%. Along with accuracy, the company is focused on speed, aiming to delivers results in 20 to 30 minutes.

"If you are going to test people coming into work you can't make them line up at 3 a.m." OraSure CEO Stephen Tang said. "You need to be able to get their results quickly."

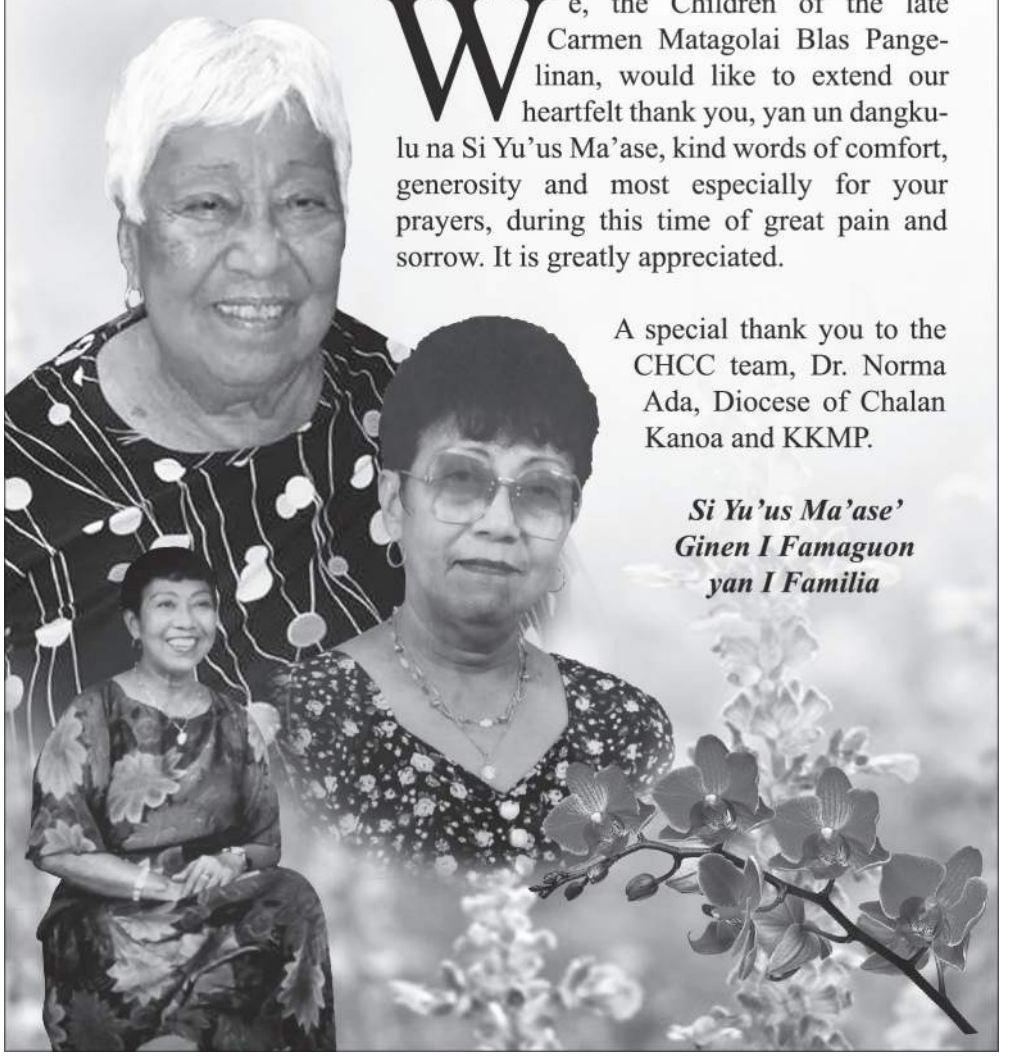
MESSAGE OF APPRECIATION

†Carmen Matagolai Blas Pangelinan

We, the Children of the late Carmen Matagolai Blas Pangelinan, would like to extend our heartfelt thank you, yan un dangkulu na Si Yu'us Ma'ase, kind words of comfort, generosity and most especially for your prayers, during this time of great pain and sorrow. It is greatly appreciated.

A special thank you to the CHCC team, Dr. Norma Ada, Diocese of Chalan Kanoa and KKMP.

Si Yu'us Ma'ase'
Ginen I Famaguon
yan I Familia

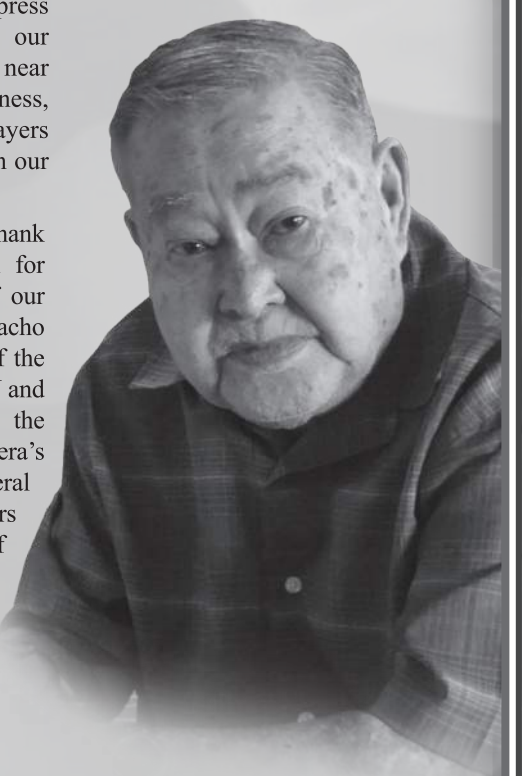


★ WITH HEARTFELT GRATITUDE ★

†ANTONIO CEPEDA TOMOKANE

We, the family wish to express our sincere gratitude to our families and friends both near and far. Your acts of kindness, words of sympathy, and continued prayers have provided us with great comfort in our time of sorrow.

We would also like to extend a special thank you to Father Albert Pellazar, OAR for gracing us with the final blessing of our loved one, Dr. Norma Ada, Leslie Camacho and staff at the Marianas Associates of the Pacific Clinic as well as the CHCC ICU and D-Ward doctors and nurses for the exceptional care provided to him, Cabrera's Funeral Home for the special funeral service, the CNMI Veteran's Affairs office for facilitating his resting place of honor amongst his comrades-in-arms, Juliet Pineda, Manny Camacho and Jefferson Cordova for your compassionate care and ensuring he was most comfortable.



Thank you and Si Yu'us Ma'ase
Jovita Blanco Tomokane and Family

Life & Style

DOJ: Reality star spent emergency loan on Rolex, Rolls Royce

ATLANTA (AP)—A reality TV star in Atlanta used an emergency loan from the federal government to lease a Rolls Royce, make child support payments and purchase $85,000 worth of jewelry, authorities said Wednesday.

Maurice Fayne, who goes by Arkansas Mo on the VH1 show "Love & Hip Hop: Atlanta," was arrested Monday on a charge of bank fraud, the Department of Justice said in a news release.

Fayne, 37, is the sole owner of transportation business Flame Trucking and in April he applied for a loan that the federal government was offering to small businesses decimated by the coronavirus pandemic, officials said. In his application, Fayne stated his business employed 107 employees with an an average monthly payroll of $1,490,200, the release said.

Fayne requested a Paycheck Protection Program loan for over $3 million and received a little over $2 million, officials said.

He used more than $1.5 million of the loan to purchase jewelry, including a Rolex Presidential watch and a 5.73 carat diamond ring, the release said. Fayne also leased a 2019 Rolls Royce Wraith and paid $40,000 in child support.

"At a time when small businesses are struggling for survival, we cannot tolerate anyone driven by personal greed, who misdirects federal emergency assistance earmarked for keeping businesses afloat," said Chris Hacker, Special Agent in Charge of FBI Atlanta.

When he met with investigators last week, Fayne denied spending the loan on anything besides payroll and business expenses. But on Monday, federal agents searched Fayne's home and seized the jewelry and around $80,000 in cash, including $9,400 Fayne had in his pockets, the release said.

It's unclear whether Fayne had an attorney who could comment on his behalf.

Fayne appeared on several episodes of "Love & Hip Hop: Atlanta" as the love interest of Karlie Redd, a longtime cast member, news outlets reported.

Rio beams movies outside for cooped up apartment dwellers

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP)—Apartment dwellers have been cooped up for weeks in Rio de Janeiro, staying inside with their children to avoid the coronavirus—but some are getting relief when a specially outfitted sports utility vehicle arrives outside their buildings and workers erect a big portable movie screen.

After dark, projection equipment inside the modified Land Rover beams movies to the screen and parents and children peer from apartment windows to watch the mostly short-length films for children.

The audio is broadcast from the SUV, creating an experience similar to drive-in movies, but with people watching from their apartments instead of inside cars.

Cesar Miranda Ribeiro, president of city-owned RioFilme company, said the effort called "Cinema in the Windows" is aimed at "trying to take care of the mental health of the people."

The movies bring "some joy, some comfort during this pandemic, when people are suffering inside their homes," he said.

The fourth showing took place Wednesday night and there's strong demand for more from apartment building governing organizations that use RioFilme's website to request showings for their buildings' residents.

Renata Rodrigues said the showing gave her and her daughters relief from the drudgery of daily life while stuck inside at home.

"To stay locked in the house for adults is bad, but imagine how it is for children," she said.

Before the virus arrived in Brazil, the RioFilme mobile movie crew brought the SUV to neighborhoods across the city for outdoor free movies in parks and plazas.

But those showings were suspended to prevent large crowds of people who could spread the virus as Rio's traditional movie theaters also closed. Brazil has had more than 12,000 COVID-19 deaths, making it the hardest hit Latin American country, according to a survey by Johns Hopkins University

Other Brazilians who are tired of staying home and streaming movies have started heading in droves to drive-in movie theaters, including a 47-year-old institution in the capital of Brasilia that reopened last weekend as traditional cinemas remain shuttered.

About 150 carloads of people showed up Wednesday evening fat the Cine Drive-in for the animated movie "Smallfoot." Ana Paula Santos brought her two sons, saying it's the only entertainment they can enjoy outside their home.

Cine Drive-In usually had about 30 or 40 cars per showing before the virus hit, but the number of customers more than tripled after it was allowed to reopen, owner Marta Fagundes told the newspaper Folha de S. Paulo. Some waited an hour in line to get into the drive-in, which reduced its capacity from 400 to 200 cars to provide distancing between the vehicles.

Ex-lovers of Johnny Depp come to his defense in libel case

LONDON (AP)—Two former romantic partners of actor Johnny Depp came to his defense Wednesday in his libel suit against British newspaper The Sun, dismissing claims that he was violent or abusive.

Actresses Vanessa Paradis and Winona Ryder offered supportive statements for the "Pirates of the Caribbean" star, who is suing the tabloid paper's publisher, News Group Newspapers, over an April 2018 article which referred to the 56-year-old Depp as a "wife -beater."

The article contained allegations by Depp's ex-wife, Amber Heard, who filed for divorce after requesting a domestic violence restraining order. Depp has strenuously denied the allegations.

In a hearing conducted remotely, lawyers for Depp argued that statements from Ryder and Paradis should be included as evidence in the actor's case against the publisher.

"We've been partners for 14 years and we raised our two children together," Paradis said, court documents show. "Through all these years, I've known Johnny to be a kind, attentive, generous, and non-violent person and father."

She added that he was "never violent or abusive."

Depp's lawyers also want to include evidence from Ryder, who was in a relationship with the star in the 1990s.

"I cannot wrap my head around (Heard's) accusations," she said according to the documents. "He was never, never violent towards me. He was never, never abusive at all towards me."

Heard's representative issued a statement after the case management hearing, saying that "in relation to Vanessa Paradis and Winona Ryder's evidence, we are glad they did not have the same experience as Ms. Heard."

"However, one woman's experience does not determine the experience of another woman," the statement said.

A two-week trial was due to start in London on March 25, but it was put on hold due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

AP

This Feb. 21, 2020 file photo shows actor Johnny Depp during a photo-call for the film «Minamata» during the 70th International Film Festival Berlin, Berlinale in Berlin, Germany.

Wife resists husband's plan to cut ties with his family

DEAR ABBY: My mother-in-law is the WORST! She has no respect for me. She has stolen, lied and gossiped about me numerous times. Each time, I chose to forgive and move on.

Recently, my husband made clear that he wants to cut ties with his mother and siblings because they constantly belittle his success and ask to borrow money. My problem is, I can't agree to it. I despise his mother, but I was raised to believe families should never sever ties. I believe every family has its ups and downs.

My husband and I constantly argue because I continue to communicate with his mother and extend invitations to her. Abby, I just want to do the right thing, but I can't seem to figure out what the right thing to do is.

S.O.S. IN GUAM

DEAR S.O.S.: Your husband's family is a threat to your financial stability and emotional health. Unless you want continuing discord in your marriage, respect your husband's wishes. Recognize that his family is extremely dysfunctional and do as he asks. If you don't, the arguments will escalate until they damage your relationship with him.

DEAR ABBY: After being in a bad marriage for 40 years, I finally left my husband in 2011. After two years of separation and therapy, we reconciled. During the time I was gone, he leaned on his longtime friends for support and shared lots of personal information about me, some of which was untrue.

The other evening while we were having dinner and drinks, a mutual friend and I were talking about health, and I told him I was hiding a certain hip problem from my husband. He asked why, because my husband had told him about it years ago. (I can't imagine why.)

The reason I left was my husband's anger at me over a hospital emergency room bill. I told this friend that my husband's concern for my health is not sincere because he had recently blown up at me for mentioning an upcoming doctor visit. I am on Medicare. Now I'm worried that I may have wrecked their friendship by revealing how uncaring a husband he really is. How did I get here?

QUESTIONING MYSELF

DEAR QUESTIONING: How did you get here? You got here by remarrying a man who has such a big issue with spending money on health. If you stay with him, it could be catastrophic.

DEAR ABBY: I was taught (at home and in school) to speak first when entering a room, a building, etc. However, my wife's family doesn't practice this. Recently, her sister, upon entering a room I was in, failed to speak first. After I said hello, she said, "I was wondering when you were going to say something." Are there etiquette guidelines that speak to this situation?

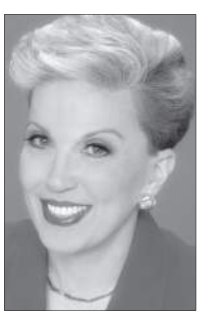
ENTERING IN THE EAST

DEAR ENTERING: If there is a rule about who should speak first, I confess I have never heard of it. I know that it is proper for a woman to extend her hand (first) in a social situation if she wants to observe the formality, but that's as far as it goes. When it comes to who says hello first, common sense should rule.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

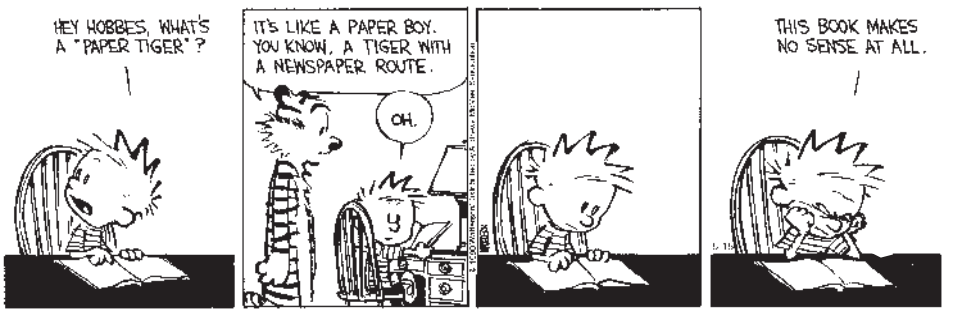


Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


HEY HOBBES, WHAT'S A "PAPER TIGER"?
IT'S LIKE A PAPER BOY. YOU KNOW, A TIGER WITH A NEWSPAPER ROUTE.
OH.
THIS BOOK MAKES NO SENSE AT ALL.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

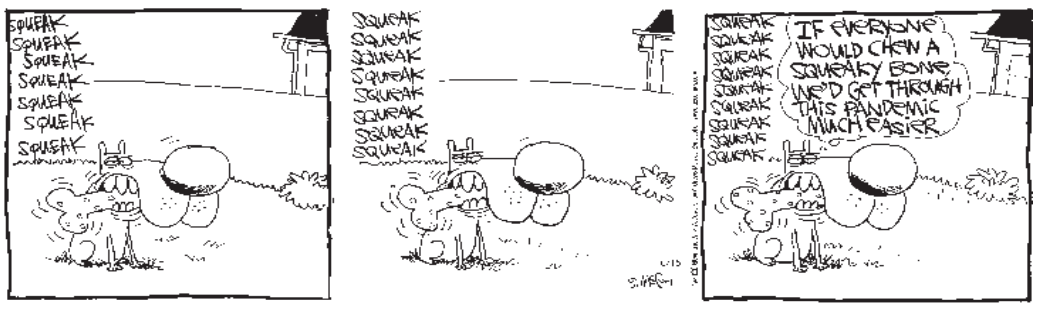
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

WE SHOULD GET UP TO SOMETHING.
LIKE WHAT, EUGENE THE IMAGINARY?
TROUBLE? HIJINKS? NO GOOD?
THERE'S REALLY NO HIJINKS TO GET INTO AROUND HERE.
BRING ME SARAN WRAP, DUCT TAPE AND HERSHEY'S SYRUP AND I'LL PROVE YOU WRONG.
IMAGINATION IS FUN!

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

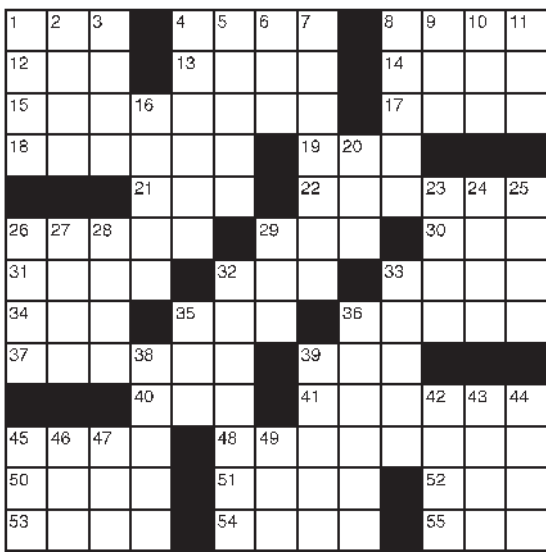
ACROSS
1 "East of Eden" brother
4 Shrill barks
8 Has a bug
12 Batter's stat
13 E Pluribus —
14 Faucet problem
15 Frenzied gathering
17 Indolent
18 Tempt
19 Blackbird
21 Young fellow
22 Scotch cocktail
26 Aegean island
29 Wager
30 Bio stat
31 Sci-fi vehicles
32 — Faithful
33 From the start
34 Bikini half
35 Likely
36 Cool veggies
37 Jump from gig to gig
39 New England catch
40 "Evil Woman" band
41 Record label owned by Sony
45 Charon's river
48 Pitiful tale
50 Met solo
51 "Tommy" actress Falco
52 West of Hollywood
53 Hang in the balance
54 Fender bender
55 Ambulance letters

DOWN
1 Showed up
2 Bard's river
3 Pride parade initials
4 Desert plants
5 "— a vacation!"
6 Bit of wit
7 Slandered
8 Extemporize
9 Nest egg acronym
10 Designer Claiborne
11 CIA operative
16 Farm towers
20 Word of denial
23 Social standing
24 Curved molding
25 Evergreens
26 Pt. of a sentence
27 Roundish do
28 Biblical kingdom
29 Crunchy sandwich
32 Went up against
33 Taxpayer's dread
35 "You've got mail" ISP
36 Waist-cinching garment
38 Group of six
39 Rustic home
42 A few
43 Streetcar
44 Pro votes
45 Tree fluid
46 Three, in Rome
47 Feminine side
49 Praise in verse

Solution time: 25 mins.

E	L	L	E		C	R	O	C		U	P	S	
N	O	O	R		A	I	D	A		N	O	T	
D	O	W	N	U	N	D	E	R		D	U	E	
S	T	F	F	I	S		F	R	F	R	T		
			S	T		T	A	T	A	R			
F	A	C	T		S	H	U		A	C	E	D	
O	S	U			P	E	N			U	M	A	
B	E	T	H		A	F	T		A	T	O	M	
		B	U	R	N	T		E	D				
S	P	A	R	F			S	I	I	N	G	S	
L	A	C		B	A	C	K	S	D	O	W	N	
I	R	K		E	_	O	I		A	R	E	A	
P	I	S		L	E	O	N		S	A	N	G	

Yesterday's answer 5-15



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Alexandra Breckenridge, 38; Jamie-Lynn Sigler, 39; David Krumholtz, 42; Chazz Palminteri, 68.

Happy Birthday: Don't hesitate. Look at your options, and lean toward making a change. Revisit long-term goals, and reconnect with people who may be able to help you make a move. Have an open mind, and you'll get a clear sense of what's possible. Let the past go, and embrace the future with optimism and the mindset to give your all. Your numbers are 4, 10, 24, 27, 30, 39, 43.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Don't be fooled by what others do or say. Question motives and consider what's best for you. Discipline will help you achieve personal, intellectual and physical goals. Advancement, financial gain and more stability should be priorities. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Join in something that interests you. Reaching out to help a cause or a friend will lead to an unexpected reward. Make decisions based on facts, not emotions. Moderation and with ingenuity, will solve problems you encounter along the way. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Compromise if you want to get things done and avoid senseless arguments. Finding an ingenious way to make ends meet should be your focus. You may not be concerned about long-term security, but working toward stability is encouraged. ✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Everything is about to change. Put your best foot forward, and you'll be surprised what you get in return. A challenge will help you show your true potential. A chance to collaborate with creative individuals will change your perspective regarding prospects. ✪✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Stop worrying and start doing. You may not be able to change the world around you, but you can adapt and make it work for you. Size up your situation, consider your skills and set an example by doing something useful. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Look at what you can do, not what you cannot. Bring about positive changes that will help you expand your knowledge and skills while exploring new possibilities. Don't let an emotional incident or someone's bad behavior consume you. Gauge your response carefully. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* You'll be on the mark when it comes to communication. Set up online meetings, sign up for a correspondence course or research something you want to pursue, and you will learn something that will help you get ahead. Personal improvements are favored. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Use imagination if you are bored, and you'll come up with a plan that will help expand your mind and energize your spirit. A creative idea you have will encourage you to be more diverse in using your skills, knowledge and equipment. ✪✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* You may find making a decision challenging. Refuse to let anyone interfere or sway you in a direction that might not be best for you. Work alone if you feel threatened or you think someone is trying to manipulate you. ✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Make amends. Holding a grudge or living in the past won't help you get ahead. Learn from your experiences, and embrace what lies ahead. A change will lift your spirits and encourage you to try something new. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Make a change at home that will assist you in pursuing something you've always wanted to do. The research will help you gain insight into the possibilities of using your skills, coupled with technology, to build a home-based business. Romance looks promising. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Don't let uncertainty get to you. Concentrate on your immediate plans, and work hard until you accomplish what you set out to do. Don't let self-deception be your downfall. Honesty, reason and practicality will be necessary to avoid making a poor decision. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are determined, creative and spontaneous. You are aggressive and curious.

Visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		7	9			1		
			8			5		
1	4				6			9
		6					8	7
				4				
3	7					4		
6			7				3	5
		5			1			
		3			8	2		

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 5/15

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

1	4	9	3	6	2	5	7	8
7	2	5	8	4	1	3	9	6
3	6	8	7	5	9	1	4	2
2	8	1	4	9	3	7	6	5
9	5	6	2	7	8	4	1	3
4	7	3	5	1	6	2	8	9
6	9	4	1	2	5	8	3	7
8	1	2	9	3	7	6	5	4
5	3	7	6	8	4	9	2	1

Difficulty Level ★★★

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

LIFE IS MERCURIAL Solution: 13 letters

Y	G	T	F	I	W	S	H	R	E	W	D	F	C	C
R	E	N	E	V	I	T	A	E	R	C	I	O	H	A
U	S	A	I	N	E	P	T	V	U	C	N	A	A	P
C	T	E	R	Ⓡ	Ⓘ	Ⓢ	Ⓚ	E	K	N	N	R	R	R
R	R	N	E	N	R	N	K	L	E	G	P	E	A	I
E	E	D	I	R	I	I	E	C	I	E	L	A	C	C
M	S	U	D	D	E	N	T	N	I	A	S	C	T	I
H	S	R	O	D	J	I	G	S	T	U	I	T	E	O
S	T	E	O	U	N	N	G	I	O	T	Q	I	R	U
I	S	I	M	G	I	N	O	I	S	C	T	V	I	S
T	I	P	A	T	I	N	R	A	D	U	R	E	S	S
T	W	B	F	L	S	U	L	L	T	I	A	R	T	H
I	T	I	E	H	C	E	L	I	V	E	L	Y	I	T
K	H	E	I	N	V	O	L	V	E	D	L	E	C	A
S	F	P	S	P	O	N	T	A	N	E	O	U	S	P

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Capricious, Changing, Characteristic, Clever, Connecting, Creative, Curious, Duress, Elastic, Endure, Feelings, Fickle, Inept, Involved, Jump, Lively, Mercury, Moodier, Paths, Quick, Reactive, Relationship, Risk, Shifting, Shrewd, Skittish, Spontaneous, Stirring, Stress, Style, Sudden, Swift, Trait, Twists, Yearning

Yesterday's Answer: Self-esteem

Jo's Jewels Collector's Edition is back by popular demand. Purchase online at www.WonderWordBooks.com or call 1-800-642-6480.

NBA now up to 10 teams back for workouts

MIAMI (AP)—The NBA is now one-third of the way back, at least in terms of voluntary workouts.

With Miami re-opening its doors Wednesday, 10 of the league's 30 teams have gone forward with on-court individual workouts -- the first permitted sessions since the league ordered teams to close their training facilities as part of the coronavirus pandemic response about two months ago.

Besides the Heat, the other teams that have opened so far are Portland, Cleveland, Milwaukee, Denver, Atlanta, Indiana, Sacramento, Toronto and Utah. More are expected in the coming days; among them, Orlando is close, and the Los Angeles Lakers are targeting Saturday.

And while there still is no decision about whether the season can resume—NBA Commissioner Adam Silver, according to a person with knowledge of the situation, has told the league's players he expects to make that call by mid-June at the latest -- getting back to some semblance of work is generally being considered a positive step.

"We're kind of just feeling it out, playing it by ear, taking it day by day," said Toronto assistant coach Brittni Donaldson, who was in the gym with Raptors wing Malcolm Miller when the reigning NBA champions opened their facility again Monday. "Hopefully, you know, in a week we can start ramping it up a little more. But to start we're just keeping it very basic, very simple."

The league has very strict rules about these workouts; no head coaches can be involved, no more than four players can be in the facility at a time —the Raptors are limiting it to one player—and intense safety precautions must be taken before, during and after the sessions. When Donaldson was throwing passes to Miller, she did so while wearing a mask and gloves.

Heat captain Udonis Haslem was one of Miami's players to report back to work on Day 1 at their facility, though it wasn't his top priority. He was sporting a customized mask with the team's logo earlier Wednesday when he appeared at a food distribution drive that he helped organize near downtown Miami.

In the March 5, 2020 file photo, Golden State Warriors guard Stephen Curry (30) shoots against Toronto Raptors center Serge Ibaka (9) during the first half of an NBA game in San Francisco.

"This is first," Haslem said at the food drive. " This is most important."

Haslem said the workout started well, then he began to fade a bit toward the end. Like most NBA players, he's been doing individual workouts during the league's hiatus but said nothing replicates what it takes to get through an on-court workout.

Meanwhile, Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis let professional leagues know that the Sunshine State is ready to welcome them all if needed.

With Orlando often mentioned as a potential centralized site if the NBA resumes play, and it was one of the sites Silver told players late last week that is under consideration, DeSantis said Wednesday that the state is putting a premium on the value of professional sports.

"Professional sports are going to be welcome in Florida," DeSantis said. "That may not be the case in every other state in this country, as we've seen. And so what I would tell commissioners of leagues is, if you have a team in an area where they just won't let them operate, we'll find a place for you here in the state of Florida, because we think it's important and we know that it can be done safely.

25% pay cut

The NBA season has been suspended indefinitely since March 11 because of the coronavirus pandemic, but optimism emerged Tuesday, with various national reports saying that all parties involved would like to resume play at some point this summer.

Any specific reason for the shift in narrative?

"All the players want to get back to the court, but the elephant in the room here is: Under what financial circumstances? This week has been circled on the calendar—on the players' union side—for weeks. Friday, May 15 is the first day that players will be having a 25 percent paycut as a result of this pandemic," NBA insider Tom Haberstroh said. "Up until now, they have been receiving their pay in full.

"So I think the players are now having this unified front because they realize the money is gonna be crunched a little bit come Friday, and they need to be accelerated in a return to play if possible."

Money talks, so it's not a surprise to hear this perspective.

But even if the league ultimately determines it is safe enough to return, the NBA and NBPA have to collectively bargain and agree on a plethora of pressing issues.

Sorting out all of the dynamics related to dollars and cents will be challenging.

"The financial side is so much more complicated," Haberstroh said. "For example, if they go back to a playoff scenario does that mean that Steph Curry—who is in last place in the NBA—receives no more paychecks for the rest of the season? If they return to a playoff format—skipping the regular season—I think a lot of players outside of that playoff picture are gonna be wondering, 'What does that mean for my paycheck?'"

The Warriors, who own the worst record at 15-50, technically have 17 more games left on the schedule.

"We'll be good soldiers if the league asks us to play," coach Steve Kerr said Tuesday on 95.7 The Game. "We'll play. (But) I don't anticipate that happening."

So if Golden State's season in fact is over, we eventually will find out what that means for the players' salaries.

Soccer executive warns of '100 clubs' going bankrupt

GENEVA (AP)—Soccer faces losing many clubs to bankruptcy because of the coronavirus pandemic.

A slowdown in the multi-billion dollar transfer market, and possible defaults on payments from player deals made before the shutdown, were cited as concerns in a debate hosted by a FIFA-backed research center on Wednesday.

"I think the biggest threat to club football in the coming six months is going to be the survival of smaller clubs," Lokomotiva Zagreb director Dennis Gudasic said.

Gudasic warned of a "drastic situation whereby we have maybe 100, or 200 clubs go bankrupt in September or October" if challenges facing smaller clubs are not understood.

Clubs across Europe have been denied commercial revenue with no games in most countries for at least two months, and only fan-free games in empty stadiums likely for months ahead.

Back in March, European Club Association (ECA) leader Andrea Agnelli predicted clubs faced "an existential threat." The Juventus president described the coronavirus outbreak as "the biggest challenge our game and industry has ever faced."

Now, many clubs are looking for richer leagues to complete their seasons so that money paid by broadcasters for fulfilling contracts can revive the transfer market.

"This is where there is a lot of uncertainty," Gudasic said, adding some clubs in Croatia in terms of budgeting had become "actually addicted" to transfer revenue from their former players.

His comments came in an online panel discussion hosted by the International Centre for Sports Studies (CIES) at the University of Neuchatel in Switzerland.

Clubs could go bankrupt waiting for installments due from player deals made in the past two years, university academic Raffaele Poli cautioned,

"I'm not sure all clubs will be able to pay," Poli, a leading analyst of transfer values worldwide, said.

Clubs in eastern European countries such as Croatia could still make deals in a slower transfer market, Manchester United scout Piotr Sadowski said.

Players there would be available at less cost than from clubs in Portugal or France, he said.

An extended transfer window would also help revive the market, the Man United scout said, suggesting "unofficial talks" had taken place about the idea.

FIFA, the sport's world governing body, has agreed to be flexible with the typical July-August trading period in Europe as there is no clarity when the current season will end and the 2020-21 campaign will begin.

'This would be a good idea to make like a six months transfer window from summer to winter 2021," Sadowski said. "It would give all those clubs a chance to better plan transfers and their budgets."

Asked about trends in a likely deflated transfer market, the industry experts pointed to the idea of clubs accepting less cash up front for players, with more money backloaded in higher sell-on clauses and bonuses conditional on performances. More loan deals also seem likely.

Though even English clubs face hardship if broadcast deals are not paid in full, the huge wealth gap in Europe was highlighted.

Every Premier League club will still be paid tens of millions of dollars this season, while Croatian clubs get 150,000 euros ($162,000) annually from domestic TV revenue, Gudasic said.

Gudasic suggested clubs with a global brand would still thrive: "Let's face it, ECA is not representing the smaller clubs."

MLB 2020 season faces challenges from states

NEW YORK— Baseball wants the 2020 season, if and when it happens, to be played in the 30 major league ballparks across the continent.

But it's prepared for that, at least at the outset, to be impossible.

While certain states have reopened—decisions that are reportedly projected to lead to a sharp increase in the number of COVID-19 cases and deaths—others are continuing their preventative measures. Tuesday, the same day Major League Baseball began to present its proposal for starting the season to the players' union, the director of public health in Los Angeles County said the stay-at-home-order will "with all certainty" be extended three more months. Also Tuesday, the governor of neighboring Arizona said his state will be open to pro sports beginning Friday.

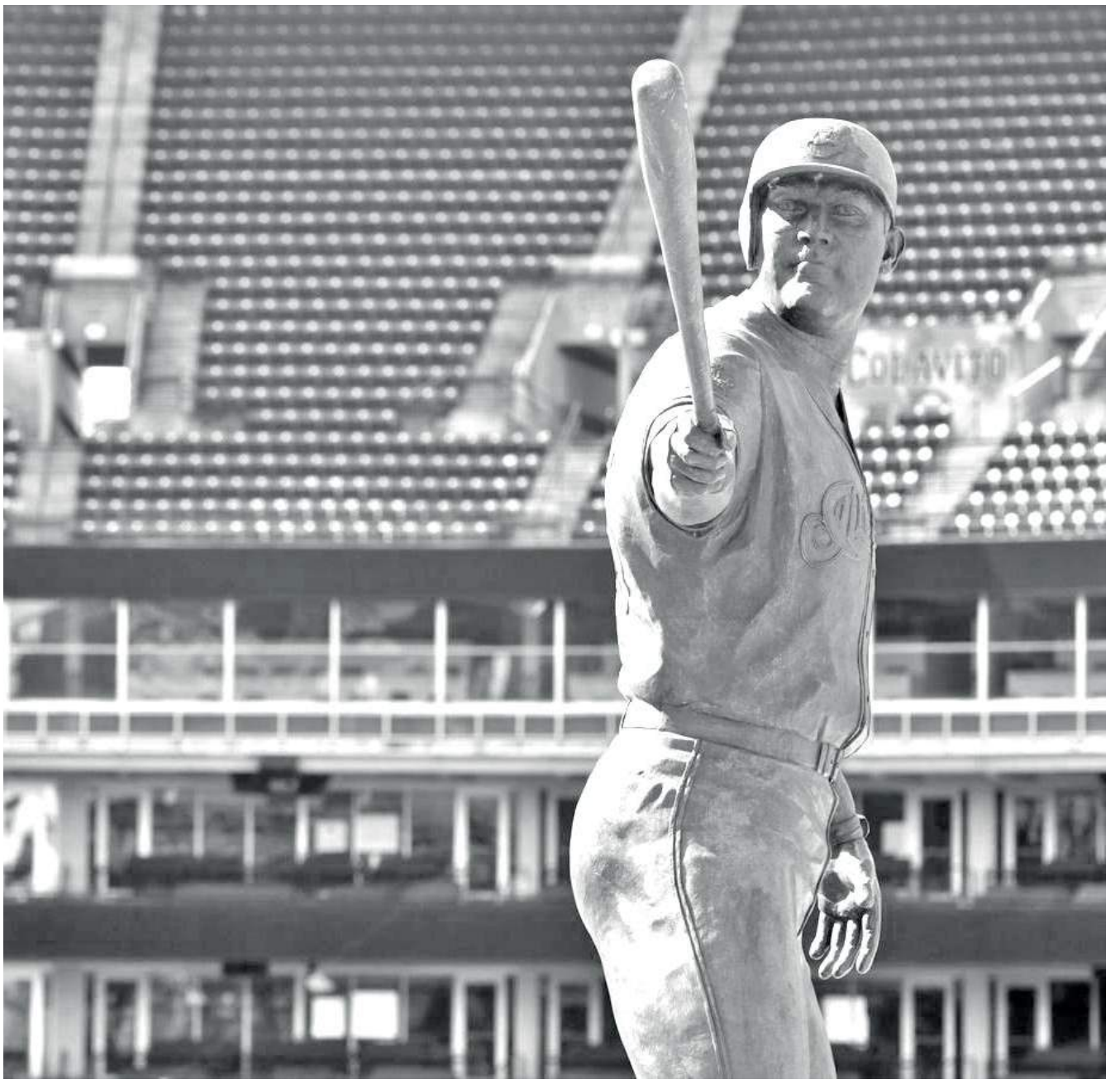
The reopening of certain states is what ratcheted up confidence that there will be baseball this year, though it did nothing to answer the question of whether there should be baseball this year. Being allowed to play and it being a good idea, from a public-health standpoint, to do so are two different things.

But the league is pressing forward with its proposal to bring the sport back this summer, meaning any preventative measures still in place come the targeted Opening Day in early July will throw a wrench into their scheduling plans.

The 30 major league teams play in 28 different cities, 17 different states (including the District of Columbia) and two different countries. That makes for a lot of variations in the kinds of measures still in place, and if the league wants its plan to go off without a hitch—and there are a lot of potential hitches—it will need approval from all of those governments.

Let's say MLB proposal—at least the non-financial aspects of it—gets the OK from the union and we see a season as laid out in that plan, which it's important to note is supposedly subject to change as the COVID-19 pandemic evolves over the coming weeks and months. Every team and player agrees to play games without fans present in home ballparks across North America.

But let's also say that Los Angeles County, still enforcing its stay-at-home order, says no to the Los Angeles Dodgers playing home games at Dodger Stadium. What happens?



AP

A statue of former Cleveland Indians Jim Thome stands in an empty Progressive Field in Cleveland.

The league's plan has contingencies for such an outcome. The Athletic's Ken Rosenthal reported Wednesday that "league officials anticipate the need to be flexible with scheduling, knowing that even as games begin without fans, not all states will open to baseball at the same time."

According to the reported details of the proposal that was agreed to Monday, the Dodgers would have two choices: share a big league stadium with another big league team, or relocate to their spring training facility in Arizona. So, if Los Angeles County has different measures in place than Orange County, the Dodgers could play their home games at Angel Stadium in Anaheim. Or they could head to Camelback Ranch in Glendale, Arizona—the facility they share with the White Sox—and play their home games there.

MLB's proposal has teams playing regular-season games exclusively against division opponents and opponents from the corresponding geographic division in the other league. That's an effort to minimize travel. Why travel between two cities in the same region is safer than travel between two cities in different regions has not been explained.

In this example, teams from the NL West and AL West could still travel within their region to play the Dodgers in Arizona.

But what happens if a government in the Midwest says no to their local team or teams playing games in their home ballparks? What happens if Illinois Governor J.B. Pritzker or Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot deem it unsafe for the White Sox and Cubs to play games at Guaranteed Rate Field and Wrigley Field?

As stated earlier, the teams would have the choice to share a big league stadium with another team. Maybe the Cubs would go to Milwaukee or the White Sox would go to St. Louis. But what if they opt to relocate to their spring training facilities in Arizona? Suddenly, they're outside their region, and the whole point of the regional schedule was to minimize travel in an effort to keep players safe. What happens if the Pittsburgh Pirates have to travel across the country to play the Cubs or White Sox in Arizona? Do they just do it? Do the White Sox and Cubs get put in the West Divisions this season? Does Major League Baseball blow up the schedule entirely and say, "If we can't limit travel to specific regions, what's the point of having the schedule look like this at all?"

There could be some wide-ranging impacts. California Governor Gavin Newsom has yet to commit to allowing baseball to be played in his state, saying Monday: "We'll see where we will be in July." Five major league teams play in California. Will a sixth of the league be playing home games in spring training parks?

It should go without saying that no such hypotheticals would be malicious or anti-baseball, as these governments are trying to make decisions that will keep their citizens—including those who are required to stage a baseball season - healthy and safe.

But whether it should be or not, MLB is attempting to do business, a business that requires a lot of people to make go, in the middle of a public-health crisis. And this is one of just many challenges to getting a 2020 season off the ground. ***(NBC)***

Happ: Players have already agreed to pay cut

CHICAGO—Should the MLB players union agree to a pay cut for the 2020 season?

"Players right now have already agreed to a pay cut," said Cubs outfielder Ian Happ Tuesday on ESPN's "Waddle and Silvy," when asked if the players expect to compromise with league owners on further salary concessions.

Happ, the Cubs assistant MLBPA representative, is speaking of the agreement players made with MLB owners in March to receive prorated salaries this season.

"We're taking pay as the number of games that we play this year," he said.

The owners and players hit the negotiating table Tuesday to discuss MLB's proposal to restart the 2020 season. That plan entails a 50-50 revenue split between owners and players, as MLB believes it will lose more money playing games without fans and paying prorated salaries than if they don't play at all.

Tuesday's negotiations didn't include an economic proposal, according to The Athletic's Evan Drellich.

Revenues will take a hit in 2020 because the coronavirus will cut a chunk of games off the schedule and eliminate the presence of paying fans in the stands. However, MLBPA union chief Tony Clark recently told The Athletic's Ken Rosenthal a revenue split is a "non-starter" in negotiations, citing his belief owners are attempting to institute a salary cap.

Owners and players fighting over money during a global pandemic would be a horrible look for baseball at a time where tens of thousands have died from the virus and millions have lost their jobs. MLB playing some semblance of a season would offer the world a sense of normalcy, which Happ noted.

"Players understand that we want to get back on the field, and I think that for our country and for all the fans out there, that's our main goal - is to get back," he said.

However, baseball's return poses a risk to the health of everyone involved, from players to coaches to trainers to owners to media to stadium workers. Look no further than Nationals reliever Sean Doolittle's Twitter timeline to understand player concerns over returning to action.

Although it could behoove either side to make a compromise, Happ's comments show the players remain firm in their stance.

"But we've already come to one agreement," Happ said. "We're excited to see what the proposal is and see what our best solution is moving forward for baseball this year."

Fortunate draft picks

Ethan Hearn has some good friends who are eligible for baseball's amateur draft this year. Hearn is just an interested spectator this time around, and he feels pretty fortunate about his situation.

The 19-year-old catcher was selected by the Chicago Cubs with the 192nd pick of the 2019 draft. The slot value for his spot was $247,000, but the Cubs gave him a sixth round-high $950,000 signing bonus to turn pro instead of playing college ball for Mississippi State.

This year, there is no sixth round. Hearn's signing bonus would have been capped at $20,000.

"I'm very grateful I was drafted last year," Hearn said, "because some of those guys this year, it's going to be crazy."

There will be just 160 players drafted this year, by far the fewest since the annual selection started in 1965. ***(NBC)***

Still no official deal between Prescott, Cowboys

DALLAS— Another day, another day with no news about Dak Prescott.

The Cowboys quarterback remains unsigned more than a year after the sides began talks for a new deal. Who knew it would take this long?

"Dak, obviously, is the elephant in the room," Cowboys executive vice president Stephen Jones told David Moore of the Dallas Morning News on Wednesday. "Everyone knows it. We've just got to keep grinding."

The Cowboys' prioritized Prescott's deal but have gotten Ezekiel Elliott and Amari Cooper signed before their quarterback.

The team has offered to make Prescott the highest-paid player in the NFL, topping the $35 million per year average of Seahawks quarterback Russell Wilson.

The sides, though, have yet to agree on structure, size of the guarantee and the length of the deal, according to Moore. They face a July 15 deadline to complete a long-term deal.

"Jerry [Jones] has always told me, as a mentor of mine, as the money gets bigger, the deals get harder," Stephen Jones said. "Obviously, when we're talking about Dak, it's as big as it gets in the NFL. So, it's got to be right for Dak, and it's got to be right for us.

"It's a zero sum game for Jerry and I. We're just dividing up cap space. Whatever we do here is just a matter of how much we want to allocate to one player."

The Cowboys used the exclusive franchise tag of $31.4 million on him for 2020, but Prescott has yet to sign it. The team has ruled out rescinding the tender despite signing veteran quarterback Andy Dalton, Stephen Jones said.

AP

In this Dec. 15, 2019 file photo, Dallas Cowboys quarterback Dak Prescott (4) is hit by Washington Redskins linebacker Montez Sweat (90) and pressured by linebacker Cole Holcomb (55) as he tires to pass during the first half of an NFL game in Arlington, Texas.

NFL teams eyeing resort as training facility

In Charleston, Several NFL teams are eyeing a resort owned by West Virginia Gov. Jim Justice as a potential training facility during the coronavirus pandemic, a spokesman for the retreat said Wednesday.

The Greenbrier, a lavish resort in southern West Virginia, has previously hosted training camps for New Orleans Saints and the Houston Texans. Although several teams have contacted the resort, no franchise has officially signed on to practice there this year, hotel spokesman Cam Huffman said.

Justice, a Republican billionaire thought to be the state's richest man, bought the resort out of bankruptcy in 2009. The Greenbrier has been closed since March 19 because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Built for the Saints, The Greenbrier's practice facility includes two natural grass practice fields, a synthetic field, and a 55,000-square-foot building with kitchen and dining facilities, meeting rooms, weight and locker rooms, training and physical therapy accommodations. At an elevation of 2,000 feet, the location offers a cooler climate than some NFL teams' training camps in the summer.

The Arizona Cardinals practiced there for a three-day stretch in 2015, though some players warned of some uninvited guests: ghosts.

Tony Jefferson, then a Cardinals safety, said he heard "a little voice, it was like a little girl's voice" on his first night at The Greenbrier. Cornerback Patrick Peterson said some players were so spooked that they began traveling in groups.

"I haven't seen anything, but I do hear some weird noises at night, but I don't pay no mind to it. I fall right to sleep," Peterson said.

The NFL continues to plan for a preseason and regular season as scheduled, with the season beginning Sept. 10 with Houston at Super Bowl champion Kansas City. The league is conducting its offseason program virtually with training facilities closed because of the pandemic.

An annual PGA Tour event at The Greenbrier was scrapped last month when the tour released its new, virus-altered schedule. Turnout for the tournament had lagged and federal prosecutors targeted the facility in an investigation that subpoenaed Justice's administration for documents about the resort, the tournament, the tournament's nonprofit financial arm and Justice's tax records.

The governor's personal lawyer told reporters in January that the investigation ended with no finding of wrongdoing. ***(AP/NBC)***

CAROL

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legiate Athletics Association-bound athlete said.

Lee clinched the pair of championships in the NMI-TA-hosted event a year before she called it a career in the junior ranks and it was a mission accomplished for her.

"It was one of my goals while playing in the ITF Juniors and I considered the victory as one of my treasured wins," said Lee, who will be playing for Georgia Tech later this year.

The record five-time Northern Marianas Sports Association/Tan Siu Lin Foundation Female Student Athlete of the Year added that she hopes her triumph in the ITF tournament would also serve as an inspiration to the islands' junior players.

"The win could give confidence to other junior players on Saipan. If I can do it, they can, too. I am hoping more junior players will represent the CNMI in future ITF tournaments," the former world No. 114 said.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

In this 2013 file photo, Carol Lee, left, joins her fellow CNMI junior players and veteran coach Jeff Race for a group photo during a practice session at the Pacific Islands Club hard courts.

MITA

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al football trend and improve our GK program, we've been working hard with Chelsea FC Soccer School Hong Kong coach. Now we have two local coaches that hold AFC GK Level 1 certificate and have the ability and knowledge to coach our youth on the principle of techniques and tactics in goalkeeping," the NMIFA technical director added.

Ito and Zapanta attended the AFC Level 1 Goalkeeping Coaching Course in Guam in January this year, joining 11 other participants, including Chelsea Hong Kong's Kwok Kei Poon. The course had former Japan National Team player and professional goalkeeper Yoshio Kato as instructor and covered both the practical and theoretical parts of goalkeeping lessons. The program also incorporates ways to better introduce goalkeeping to players.

"At the AFC goalkeeping course, they are able to teach the fun side of goalkeeping and this will encourage more players to try it," Mita said.

With Ito and Zapanta certified to teach goalkeeping, the NMIFA officials said they can share their knowledge not only to national players, but also to members of the different clubs on island.

GUAM FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

The CNMI's Angie Ito dives for a save during a practical session in the Asian Football Confederation Level 1 Goalkeeping Coaching Course held at the Guam Football Association National Training Center in Harmon early this year.

"With our two qualified goalkeeping coaches, we are looking forward to increasing the number of GK in our program. We now have the opportunity to develop more talents," Mita said.

Meanwhile, the CNMI national team pool's virtual training sessions are ongoing with the social distancing directive still in affect on Saipan due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Commonwealth players are doing their best to stay in shape and ready, as they wait for the resumption of games in the local and international level. Before the pandemic hit Saipan, the pool members have been practicing at the TSL Sports Complex (workout) and NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville (regular training) to prepare for the East Asian Football Federation E-1 Football Championship 2021 Round 1. The EAFF event is scheduled for July and September and the new date has yet to be determined because of the uncertainties brought by the COVID-19 crisis.

NBA now up to 10 teams back for workouts

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Carol treasures wins at home

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Association would have hosted an International Tennis Federation Junior world-ranking event, starting next week and Carol Lee would have been among the competition's spectators.

Unfortunately, the Northern Marianas Junior Tennis Championship has been canceled due to the coronavirus pandemic so Lee opted to relive her treasured wins in the same tournament two years ago.

Playing in front of the hometown crowd, Lee did not disappoint and took both the singles and doubles championships in the 2018 competition. She first clinched the doubles crown after teaming up with Hong Kong's Wing Ka Lin in beating Japan's Nanari Katsumi and Mua Shigeta in the finals, 6-1, 6-2. Then in the singles, Lee this time challenged Lin and also prevailed in straight sets, 6-2, 6-1, to complete the sweep.

Lee recalled feeling the pressure when she advanced to the finals of both the singles and doubles events, as she knew the home crowd was expecting her to win. However, she was so inspired by the support she got from the local tennis community that she managed to overcome her nerves.

"The crowd was amazing and of course at the same time it was a pressure-filled match because I knew that many people were counting on me to win. But I didn't think the negative sides and the consequences of the finals," Lee said.

"When I played here, I felt strong mentally and became more confident. With my home crowd, my courts, my home, and my family, they helped me a lot to win the matches," the National Col-

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

In this May 27, 2018 file photo, the CNMI's Carol Lee returns to Hong Kong's Wing Ka Lin during the second set of their singles title game in the Northern Marianas Junior Championship at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan hard courts.

Mita: Big step forward for GK program

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Northern Mariana Islands Football Association's goalkeeping program took a big stride with the awarding of the Asian Football Confederation certificate to its two coaches.

NMIFA technical director Michiteru Mita said that with Angie Ito and Raymond Zapanta receiving the AFC Level 1 Goalkeeping Coaching Certificate, the association "took a big step forward for our goalkeeping development program."

"International football is improving fast and the roles of goalkeepers are also changing in the modern football. The goalkeeper, though is just one of the 11 players in the game, needs to learn a specific technique," said Mita, who also coaches the CNMI Men's National Team.

"To catch up the internation-

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GUAM FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

Northern Mariana Islands Football Association technical director Michiteru Mita, left, is pleased with the awarding of the Asian Football Confederation Level 1 Goalkeeping Coaching Certificates to Raymond Zapanta, right, and Angie Ito.